

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the November 20, 2001/Kartika 29, 1923 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—155**

#### **Declaration of Tirumala as “No Fly Zone”**

136. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirumala has been declared as “No Fly Zone” as requested by the Andhra Pradesh Government for security reasons;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Airports in NER**

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

(a) whether the buildings and air-strips of Airports in the NER, including Lilabari Airport, North Lakhimpur, are operational;

(b) if so, the steps taken for air connectivity with the rest of the country and abroad;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and expected time by which the required infrastructure will be in place; and

(d) the details of the ongoing infrastructure projects in each of the airports

in the NER indicating amount sanctioned, amount utilized, target works; target achieved and time frame for completion of each project?

#### **Upgradation of Amausi and Babatpur airports**

138. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to modernise and upgrade Amausi and Babatpur airports to meet international standards;

(b) if so, what is the anticipated expenditure; and

(c) by when the work is likely to start?

#### **Indemnity to Air India**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has extended a \$ 500 million indemnity to Air India till November 30, while the same has been declined to Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the reasons for declining it to Indian Airlines?

### **Prevention of terrorist attacks**

140. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of Black-Tuesday terrorists Aviation attack on America's prized towers of World Trade Centre and the Pentagon-building, Government had reviewed and put to test and scrutiny the security measures put in place after IC-814 hijack from Kathmandu for aviation safety against terrorist attack and hijacks;

(b) if so, how far the safety-measures taken were found satisfactory, and dependable to fore-stall and prevent any such terrorist attempts; and

(c) what further steps have been taken in light of the review ?

### **Security arrangements of airports**

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

(a) whether keeping in view the disastrous attacks on World Trade Centres and Pentagon in U.S., Government have issued fresh strict instructions for security checking at all airports of the country;

(b) whether Sky Marshals are posted in all flights; and

(c) what other security/safety measures have been introduced on plane flights to ensure security?

### **Small aircrafts**

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

(a) the number of small aircrafts under operation with different agencies in the country with year of manufacture/acquisition by the agency;

(b) whether Government have set up a high level Committee to look into acquisition, maintenance and operation of small aircrafts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Streamlining of IA**

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines is heading for loss;

(b) if so, the reasons analysed for incurring loss; and

(c) the action proposed to streamline the organisation?

### **Introduction of Sky Marshals in domestic airlines**

144. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:  
SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce "Sky Marshals" in domestic Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, whether this will be extended to private airlines for the safety of passengers?

**DGCA inquiry upto recent crash of aircraft**

145. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA  
RAO:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA  
NAHATA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the observations of the enquiry conducted by DGCA about the crash of aircraft killing Madhavrao Scindia;

(b) whether aviation safety precautions are observed in India especially in small aircraft; and

(c) if so, the cause of the crash analysed?

**Committee's findings on functioning of smaller aircrafts**

146. SHRI NARENDRA NATH  
OJHA:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high level committee to go into the functioning of private companies which are in the business of providing smaller aircraft on hire;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the findings of the committee?

**Closure of overseas offices by AI**

147. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:  
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:  
SHRI C. P. THIRUNA-  
VUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Air India's total loss/profit amount during the last three years (year-wise);

(b) Air India's total fleet of aircraft staff employed in and outside India;

(c) whether it is a fact that 700 people are on job to fly one Air India's aircraft is 2 1/2 times the number of people used by other airlines;

(d) whether Air India resorting to cost cutting measures by closing 20 out of 78 overseas offices and off-loading the foreign nationals hired by it at offices abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including net savings thereby?

**Sky Marshals on IA/AI Flights**

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

(a) whether Sky Marshals are being deputed on each flight of Indian Airlines and Air India; if so, since when and wherefrom this practice has been started;

(b) whether Sky Marshals were deployed on Boeing 737 of Alliance Air coming to Delhi from Mumbai, if so, how hijacking thereof took place; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the complete details of the said plane-hijacking?

**International air service from Bangalore**

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

(a) the details of the international carriers who have requested to start flights from Bangalore to various International destinations; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

**Stoppage of complimentary passes in AI and IA**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to do away with the complimentary passes in Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, what will be the likely savings expected to be made by this decision?

**Hijacking of Alliance Aircraft**

151. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken an enquiry into the recent incident of so called hijacking of an Alliance Aircraft;

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

(c) what action has been taken to ensure that such false alarms do not take place in the future?

**Crash of Aircraft near Mainpuri in U.P.**

152. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry into the air crash on 30th September, 2001 near Mainpuri in U.P. in which Madhavrao Scindia and seven others were killed has been ordered;

(b) whether this crash has exposed and caused concern on the airworthiness of smaller aircraft used by private operators and private agencies; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are

proposed to be taken to ensure that old and small aircraft are airworthy?

**Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to change its policy on subsidies to Haj Pilgrims and the taxpayers who wish to undertake this pilgrimage to Haj will have to pay full fares with immediate effect;

(b) whether as against a full fare of Rs. 33,000.00 Government subsidy amounts to Rs. 21,000.00 per passenger; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

**Modernisation of IAS fleets**

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

(a) whether Government have decided to enhance its equity capital in Indian Airlines by Rs. 325 crores and to review IA's long pending plan to modernise their fleet by the induction of new aircraft; and

(b) if so, what is the position of privatisation?

**Safety of airports**

†155. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make any special arrangement for the safety of airports;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

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

#### **Losses suffered by AI**

156. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India suffered losses worth Rs. 50 crores during the year 2000-2001 and the loss is expected to increase during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for losses in Air India;

(c) whether the steps taken by Government to bring down its losses have proved to be ineffective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of other strategies Government propose to adopt to make Air India out of red?

#### **Setting up of Aviation Security Force**

157. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to make Indian skies safer for air travel keeping in view the terrorist attacks in the United States; and

(b) the action taken to set up the special Aviation Security Force at an early date?

#### **Use of old aircraft on Kolkata-NE region routes**

158. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Aircrafts now utilized in the North Eastern Region from Kolkata are old and not up to the mark/properly serviceable;

(b) whether Government have not received the information of frequent happening of disturbance to the passengers on this route from Kolkata-Imphal via Silchar/Aizwal; and

(c) the measures taken up for changing the existing aircrafts?

#### **Bail-out plan for aviation sector**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines/Air India and other private taxi operators have submitted a bail-out plan to Government seeking certain concessions due to recession in air travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to various demands put forward by these airlines?

#### **Closure of sick industries**

†160. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of industries have become sick in the country during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for their sickness; and
- (d) whether Government have made any efforts to revive these sick units; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Demand and supply of cement**

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

- (a) what is the demand and supply of cement in the country at present;
- (b) whether Government have explored the vast possibility of the development of cement industry in Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of cement factories functioning in Rajasthan, location-wise and the factory-wise production of cement;
- (e) the quantity of cement exported during the last two years; and
- (f) the steps taken by Government to further promote the export of cement?

#### **Decline in Basmati export**

162. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's Basmati export market has fallen;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action proposed to be taken to boost Basmati export?

#### **Steel import curbs by US**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US panel paves way for steel import curbs" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 24th October, 2001;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

#### **Impact of terrorist strikes on exports to USA**

164. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the terrorist strikes in USA and military retaliation have affected the Indian exports to USA largely;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have chalked out plans to boost exports to USA; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Trade treaties with neighbouring countries**

165. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to review the trade treaties with neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to improve trade relation with neighbouring countries?

### **Import of agricultural products**

†166. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of agricultural commodities is permissible under open General Licence;

(b) the details of commodities imported and their quantity during the current financial year till 31st October, 2001; and

(c) the effect of such import on domestic price of agricultural commodities?

### **Setback in WTO discussions**

167. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has suffered a setback in its attempt to prevent the WTO from widening its mandate and the meeting at Doha from November, 9th-13th is all set to authorise the launch of negotiation covering an expanded agenda covering the entire range of new issues;

(b) whether the Indian industry is upset at this as it will adversely affect their business; and

(c) if so, what is Government's strategy to counter this?

### **Decline in export of Tea**

168. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the export of Tea during the current year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details thereof as on date month-wise and country-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation?

### **Development of organic tea**

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal to develop organic tea without the use of chemical pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely technical and financial assistance to be provided by Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) for the project; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide the new technology to tea growers in the country for development of organic tea and for generic promotion of tea, based on its health benefits?

### **New industries in NER**

170. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 807 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2000 and state:

(a) the action taken for inclusion of existing industries and industries to be established outside the specified areas, under the purview of New Industrial Policy for the North-East;

(b) the revised notification made in this regard; and

(c) the details of investment made in the NER after the notification indicating the reasons of low response?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

### **New Industrial units in Meghalaya**

171. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDOU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications/ proposal received from the foreign companies by Government for establishment of industrial units in Meghalaya under new economic reforms and the details of proposals sanctioned during the last three years out of it till-date;

(b) the details of amount involved in these proposals for setting up of new industrial units in the State; and

(c) what are their projected employment potentials?

### **Decline in industrial production**

172. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth in the Index of Industrial Production during the first six months of the current year;

(b) how it compares with growth during the corresponding period of last year;

(c) the reasons for decline in industrial production; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

### **Rise in trade deficit**

173. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade deficit has increased during April-September, 2001 as compared to the corresponding period of 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for increase in trade deficit; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to reduce the trade deficit?

### **Review of Export to EU countries**

174. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the main items of export from India to the European Union Countries, indicating item-wise break up of exports of these items to EU countries during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) the extent to which the export of these items to EU countries is estimated to have suffered during the current year and the ensuing years, with the opening up of exports from Least Developed Countries (LDC) to EU countries?

### **Declaration of bench mark price for rubber**

175. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) the Bench Mark price rates fixed by the Central Government for the various grades of natural rubber;

(b) how far it has helped to keep up the market price to this level during this period after the declaration of the bench mark price rates; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to purchase the natural rubber at the rates declared?



**Impact of New FDI proposals on indigenous industry**

176. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared by Government during the last two years;

(b) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals for the next year; and

(c) whether Government have kept in mind the problems the indigenous industry will face, if so, the details thereof together-with estimated loss to the industry?

**Reaction to WTO Draft Declaration**

177. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the W.T.O. Draft Ministerial Declaration (DMD) and the Draft Decision on Implementation — Related Issues (DDI) circulated recently to member countries for consideration by the Trade Ministers at Doha, reportedly sending green signal for the launch of a comprehensive new round of world negotiations;

(b) if so, the reaction to the Drafts;

(c) how far the “implementation concern” of India and other developing countries opposing a new round have been taken care of; and

(d) the fresh salvage strategy formulated, if any, in the emerging scenario?

**Removal of ban on import of farm products from India**

178. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH ‘SURYA’: Will the Minister of

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to open all the farm products except onion for imports;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that farm products from India are not allowed in US and Canada;

(d) if so, the reason therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action to get the ban removed?

**Ban on import of Arecanuts**

179. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the falling prices of arecanuts and related arecanut products, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the areca growing farmers of Karnataka are badly hit by the fall of price;

(c) whether it is a fact, that import of arecanut is one of the reason for fall of price; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban import of arecanut or impose heavy duty, if so, details thereof?

**Ban on import of coconut**

180. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to large scale import of coconut and its products, south Indian farmers are suffering and not able to meet the cost of production due to fall in prices; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to ban the import or proposing higher import duties and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Protection to Indian farming sector**

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

(a) whether Government have taken action in removing quantitative restrictions on more than 800 goods which turned out to be detrimental to the interests of Indian industry and agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to take suitable steps to protect the interest of Indian farming sector by adjusting tariffs to the required level to prevent the surge of imports?

#### **Export of rice**

182. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice exports are likely to rise over one million tonnes by March 2002 due to a cut in export prices and increased demand from African countries;

(b) if so, whether due to the lack of other markets and quality concerns, exports have not risen as targeted by Government;

(c) if so, the total target set for exports; and

(d) to what extent it has been achieved so far?

#### **Incentives to coffee industry**

183. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the incentives proposed to boost coffee

cultivation and promote good stewardship in the coffee industry?

#### **Impact of US-Afghan war on Indian exports**

184. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian export-import market has suffered a major setback owing to the uncertainties of the US-Afghanistan War;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any new strategy to help exporters-importers in view of existing war situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact on foreign exchange earnings of the present war?

#### **Export of minerals**

185. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various minerals which are being exported to different countries from Orissa presently;

(b) the public and private sector undertakings which are directly exporting these minerals;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to take over the export from private mine owners/ companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

#### **Projected export growth rate**

186. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of India's exports during April-August 2001 as compared to April-August 2000;

(b) whether the realised growth rate is consistent with the officially proclaimed annual target of 12 per cent growth; and

(c) if not, what measures are contemplated to realise the annual target?

#### **Implementation of new WTO related issues**

187. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:  
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR  
REDDY:

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

(a) whether German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, has sought India's support during the coming new trade negotiations at Doha and also held discussions with Indian leaders in New Delhi on the need for trade liberalisation;

(b) whether Agenda for Doha WTO Ministerial meeting has been finalised indicating what role India is likely to play particularly over social and environmental dimension of the issues, reductions in trade barriers to developing countries as well as on anti-dumping problems; and

(c) the detailed stages of implementation of issues concerning the earlier round of talks in this regard?

#### **Cultural Integration of North-East Zone**

188. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main programme of the North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur (Nagaland);

(b) the measures taken up by this Centre for cultural integration of North-Eastern Region; and

(c) the main objectives for establishing this Cultural Centre?

#### **Maintenance of temples/monuments**

†189. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ancient temples in the country which fall under the category of national monuments along with State-wise locations thereof;

(b) the number of such monuments which have been declared as centrally preserved monuments out of them;

(c) the number of national monument temples which have been entrusted to the State Government for their maintenance;

(d) the amount spent on the proper preservation of these temples during the last three years temple-wise; and

(e) the steps taken for the proper maintenance and rejuvenation of these temples and monuments?

#### **Protection of monuments by Archaeological Survey of India**

†190. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India as on date State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by Government for the protection/ maintenance of these monuments during the last three years;

(c) the efforts made by Government to

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

develop these monuments as tourist spots;

(d) whether some monuments are on the verge of collapse;

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

(f) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of such monuments?

#### **Development of Baldevjiu Temple in Orissa**

191. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request for financial assistance has been received by Government for proper maintenance of 16th century Baldevjiu Temple in Keonjhar District in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on the request; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide adequate funds for maintenance of the temple and to develop it as a pilgrimage keeping in view arrival of lakhs of pilgrims to the temple from all over the country?

#### **Maintenance of World Heritage sites by Corporate Houses**

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

(a) whether Archeological Survey of India has adopted a Corporate House like the Tatas to maintain the Taj Mahal;

(b) whether any other country all over the world has adopted its Corporate Houses for handling their World Heritage site;

(c) whether it has sent a wrong message that ASI cannot conserve and protect the Taj; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to solve the various inherent difficulties before adoption of Tata by ASI?

#### **Non-scientific methods of conservation of ASI**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that our conservation methods are antiquated and non-scientific;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Archeological Survey of India cannot adhere to the golden rules of conservation which States to originality of structure;

(c) if so, the reasons for failure on both the counts; and

(d) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

#### **Revival of Indian folk culture and arts**

†194. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to indifferent attitude of Government most of Indian traditional folk cultures are vanishing/disappearing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any concrete policy to revive the Indian folk arts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to fall in the number of tourists on account of terrorism the folk artists of Rajasthan are on the verge of starvation; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to keep the Indian folk cultures alive and to save the artists from starvation?

#### **Supervision over Cooperative Banks**

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

(a) whether despite warnings by Registrar of Cooperative Societies and RBI's inspection report of March 2001, the Krushi Bank Management could withdraw funds beyond prescribed norms leading to run on the bank; and

(b) if so, the corrective action and effective supervision proposed over the co-operative banks and deterrent action taken in the matter?

#### **Increase in interest rate on farmer's loan**

196. PROF. A LAKSHMISAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NABARD proposed to increase the rate of interest on the loan given to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and its overall impact on the farmers?

#### **Waiver of sanctions by USA**

197. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed study has been made of the recent waiver of the 1998 sanctions and prohibitions against India by the US Administration;

(b) if so, the analysis of the studies so far, including the benefits flowing for the dual purpose technologies and international lending by multilateral agencies like the

World Bank and the Asian Development Bank;

(c) the details of other sanctions imposed by US at different times which are still operative; and

(d) the steps being taken to seek their removal and their present status?

#### **Report of E-Commerce Committee**

198. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Electronic Commerce and Taxation has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee; and

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

#### **Reduction of PPF's rate of interest**

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

(a) what are the reasons for the decision of Government to reduce rate of interest on Public Provident Fund and other small savings by one per cent;

(b) whether any assessment has been made to study the extent to which this will affect the household savings; and

(c) if so, what are the results of such assessment?

**Cases of irregularities against  
Bank Officials**

200. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:  
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some cases  
have been registered against a few higher  
officials of the nationalised Banks in  
Mumbai by the CBI during the current year  
for criminal conspiracy and corruption in  
pledging "Kisan Vikas Patra" and other  
Government securities;

(b) if so, the number of officials involved  
in the cases alongwith the details of their  
names/designations, Banks-wise; and

(c) the action taken against them in the  
matter and if not the reasons therefor?

**Tax collection target**

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

(a) whether the tax collection target  
during the first six months of the current  
fiscal year has fallen considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing policy to collect  
tax is ineffective and needs radical changes;  
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Liability of Government**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the total liability  
of Government which consists of the internal  
borrowings, external borrowings and  
amount utilised in Public Account as a  
reserve by Government has been

continuously increasing for last several  
years and as a result, Government, find itself  
in a debt trap; and

(b) if so, what are the plans of  
Government to reduce such liabilities?

**CAG's remarks on fiscal deficit**

203. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of  
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deteriorating finances of  
Government in the nineties have pushed up  
effective interest rates by over 2.5 per cent  
from 8.02 per cent in 1990-91 to 10.61 per  
cent annually in 1999-2000;

(b) if so, whether the Comptroller and  
Auditor General has warned Centre on  
widening fiscal deficit;

(c) if so, what are the main warnings  
issued by the CAG;

(d) whether Government have examined  
all of them; and

(e) if so, what are the steps Government  
propose to take to meet the situation?

**Filing of income tax returns by senior  
citizens**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central  
Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has made it  
mandatory for all persons meeting any one  
of the six criteria to file income tax returns  
even if they do not have taxable returns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the compulsory adherence  
to this rule is insisted on even in the case of  
senior citizens;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is proposed to relax this  
rule in case of senior citizens; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Realisation of tax**

†205. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that realisation of tax has been less than the target in the country at the end of August, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that non-developmental expenditure has been more during the first five months of the year 2001-2002 as compared to the corresponding months of the earlier year; and

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and the assessment with regard to the amount of total budgetary deficit till August, 2001?

#### **Effect of terrorist attack in US on Indian Stock Market**

206. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sensex and Stock Market indices suffered a huge tumble and crashed to an eight year low following the terrorists' aviation-strike on New York's World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on Black-Tuesday, September 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the average percentage loss and the estimated total loss suffered by investors thereby; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in response thereto?

#### **Impact of Afghanistan war**

207. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the backyard war in Afghanistan would inflate oil prices, affect Indian import and export and also bring rupee under pressure; and

(b) if so, what timely measures are being taken to avert major jolts to the economy?

#### **Revenue and expenditure trend of finance**

208. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue and expenditure trends of Central finances thus far in the current fiscal years;

(b) whether these figures indicate a slippage of revenue and fiscal deficit targets as well as plan expenditure targets contained in the Budget documents as presented in February, 2001;

(c) if so, whether Government are worried about the emerging trends; and

(d) if so, what measures are being taken to reverse these trends?

#### **Actual revenue and fiscal deficits**

209. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual revenue and fiscal deficits at the Centre during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (in absolute figures and as percentage of GDP) as compared with the budget estimates and revised estimates as indicated in the budget documents;

(b) the actual plan expenditure during these two years as compared with the original budget and revised estimates;

(c) the actual tax revenue during these two years as compared with the budget and revised estimates;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) whether these figures indicate the need for tighter budget management; and

(e) if so, what measures have been taken to achieve the objective as mentioned in part (d) above?

#### **Impact of lifting sanctions by USA**

210. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has lifted some of the sanctions against India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the sanctions lifted and how far this step will help manufacturing sector and trade?

#### **Irregularities in mortgaging KVP and IVP**

211. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of branches of different Mumbai based nationalised banks wherein irregularities in mortgaging "Kisan Vikas Patras and Indira Vikas Patras have been located by RBI, CBI and Ministry of Finance during the preceding three months;

(b) whether it is a fact that verification of genuineness of these Vikas Patras was not got done through issuing Post Office; and

(c) if so, details of the action taken against officers responsible therefor?

#### **Protection of small investors' interest**

212. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled "Centre to safeguard needs of investors" appearing in Asian Age, New Delhi on 24th October, 2001;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to safeguard the interest of small investors;

(c) whether Government are aware that many companies have duped small investors during the last one decade; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the defaulting companies for duping small investors?

#### **Reduction in interest rate on loan to cooperative sector**

213. SHRI K. RAMHAN KHAN:  
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering serious drought situation in southern areas of the country, Government propose to reduce the interest rate on loan provided to the cooperative sector;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka has requested the Central Government to extend the facilities to the State;

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

(d) the decision taken by Government in the matter?



**Raids of Income-Tax Department on  
Great Eastern Shipping Corporation  
and IPCA Laboratories**

214. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income-Tax  
Department have conducted nation-wide  
raids at several premises belonging to Great  
Eastern Shipping Corporation and IPCA  
Laboratories;

(b) if so, what are the details of cash,  
jewellery and other articles / documents  
found during the raids;

(c) whether there is nexus between the  
builders and the above companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Show-cause notice to M/s. U.B. Group**

215. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be  
pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred  
Question 253 given in the Rajya Sabha on  
24 July 2001 and state:

(a) what are the broad outlines of the  
show-cause notice issued to M/s U.B. Group  
and Vijaya Malaya by the adjudicating  
authority;

(b) whether Government have received  
any reply in response to the show-cause  
notice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Financial intermediaries of RBI**

216. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the  
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of financial  
intermediaries in which RBI has holdings;

(b) whether RBI propose to dilute its  
entire holding in primary dealers; and

(c) what is the present position in regard  
to RBI holdings in other institutions?

**Prevention of hawala transactions**

217. SHRI C. RAMACHADRAlAH:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that  
hawala route transactions have created a  
parallel banking system;

(b) whether it is a fact that gangsters,  
exporters and expatriates terrorists are  
living up to raise funds through this illegal  
system; and

(c) if so, what are the preventive  
measures Government have initiated to arrest  
this?

**Unemployment due to implementation  
or ERC**

218. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR :  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether with the implementation of  
the recommendations of the Expenditure  
Reforms Commission, lakhs of  
Government employees are likely to lose their  
jobs;

(b) if so, the estimated number of  
Government employees likely to be affected  
with implementation of the  
recommendations of the Expenditure  
Reforms Commission;

(c) the manner in which Government propose to implement the recommendation of the ERC; and

(d) the unemployment likely to be generated as a consequence thereof?

**Downsizing of Government as per recommendation of ERC**

219. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the progress made so far in cutting 5 lakh Government jobs as recommended by the Expenditure Reforms Commission?

**Reduction of customs duty on aluminium products**

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

(a) whether manufacturers of aluminium products are in serious crisis in view of high price of aluminium ;

(b) whether Government would recommend the need for reduction/abolition in customs duty to help the manufacturers and ailing units; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

**Depression in economy**

221. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an indepth-study and analysis of the report of the group of consultants from international consultancy firm McKinsey & Company suggesting higher productivity route to achieve 10 per cent per annum economic growth rate by the year 2005; and

(b) if so, the results of the studies and modifications, if any, proposed to be made

in the growth model worked out to take the sluggish economy out of its present depression?

**NPA of UTI against Essar Group**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that Essar Group account for 30% of UTI non-performing assets other than US-64;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and since when it has become NPA; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover that amount?

**Involvement of Director, NCRB in smuggling**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Customs official raided in August, 2001, the residence and farm house of Director of National Crime Records Bureau in connection with the multi-crore smuggling racket;

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

(c) the details of incriminating documents/disproportionate assets recovered as a result thereof?

**Shortage of coins**

224. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of coins in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet out this shortage;

(c) whether coins are being imported also; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not getting them minted indigenously?

#### **Foreign exchange reserve**

225. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign exchange reserves fell sharply during the month of September, 2001;

(b) if so, the reserves on 31st August, 2001, and on 10th September, 2001; and

(c) the reasons for this fall and steps taken to check it?

#### **Value of rupee against US dollar**

226. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rupee is going down rapidly against US dollar;

(b) if so, the latest position of the rupee against the US dollar;

(c) the extent to which loss suffered by currency in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to protect it?

#### **Collection trend of major revenue**

227. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the trend of collection of major revenue of Government in the first seven months of the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the aggregate tax revenue collected by Government has never reached the estimated figure projected at the presentation of Budget (BE stage) since 1998; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

#### **Transaction of dollars by Banks**

228. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only American Banks can carry out final transactions in Dollars and no Indian Bank can carry out dollar transaction without intermediation of an American Bank;

(b) if so, the reasons why only Indian Banks cannot be permitted to carry out final transaction in rupee;

(c) the reasons why foreign banks or foreign entities handling rupee funds or transacting rupee cannot be required to deposit equivalent Foreign Exchange in "NOSTRO ACCOUNT" in authorised Indian Banks; and

(d) the reasons why this foreign exchange remain in RBI reserve and banks get accommodation in rupee from RBI?

#### **Action against Krushi Bank's Management**

229. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has complained over the RBI officials' failure to take prompt action against Krushi Co-operative Bank Management causing great financial loss to depositors;

(b) if so, the action taken to overcome the problem of Control and Responsibility over the functioning of co-operative banks; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of depositors?

**New approach towards financial institutions/banks**

230. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has stated in the Economic Editors' Conference that Government would take a "hands on" approach to State-owned financial institutions/banks; and

(b) if so, how this approach would be different from the existing policy which has been followed so far and how this is going to bring any qualitative change in the functioning of such financial institutions, both from the point of view of profitability and accountability?

**Domestic savings**

231. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1995-96 net domestic savings ratio has been falling and it is also a contributory factor towards tardy growth of economy; and

(b) if so, whether Government are adopting any measure, both at the policy and execution levels to ensure that domestic savings are generated adequately so that investment climate, which substantially depends on domestic savings, could also improve?

**Operational restrictions on SBI in USA**

232. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Fed Clamps down on SBI's US operations" appearing in Business Standard dated 31st October, 2001;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the SBI is not contemplating any legal remedy in the US courts as reported;

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

(e) whether all US Banking entities have shown similar courtesies to Indian regulators when they had been indicated in the Harshad Mehta Scam?

**Amendment in Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988**

233. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact amendment in the "Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988" to give more power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that since passing of the Act, rules have not been notified; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not notifying the rules?

**Setting up of an Investigation Bureau  
for economic crime**

234. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expert Committee has suggested setting up of a separate Investigation Bureau and a Special Court to investigate and try bank and financial frauds;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) what are the other suggestions made by the Committee to deal with financial irregularities; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken on the recommendations?

**Non-Banking financial companies**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of non-banking financial companies who raised money from the public are not returning the money to the public, despite Government's directives to the effect;

(b) if so, names of such erring companies; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to assure that the public get their deposits back with the promised interests?

**Revival plan for core sector**

236. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether perturbed by the deepening

slowdown he has convened a meeting of leaders of three key industries viz. auto, cement and construction-alongwith the heads of financial institutions in the month of September, 2001 to thrash out a revival plan;

(b) if so, what were the main points discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether any final decision for revival plan for core sector has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Interest rate on fixed deposits**

237. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to start the systems of variable interest rates on the interest of the fixed deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has given any such instructions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

**Strain on fiscal situation**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that fiscal situation is under considerable strain presenting a disconcerting picture;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure that the economic situation does not worsen further?

### **Fiscal deficit**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 1st November, 2001 captioned "Inflation may go up: World Bank warns India" because of the mounting fiscal deficit and monetary expansion in the country;

(b) if so, whether fiscal deficit is likely to go up to 10.5 per cent from the presently shown deficit of 5.3 per cent of G.D.P. in 2000; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check/attend to "financial strains"?

### **Loan scheme for the poor**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to formulate a small loan scheme for poor people;

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

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

### **Loans to cinema industry**

241. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the stringent conditions imposed by the banks for sanctioning loans to the workers of cinema industry for production of films/ TV serials etc.;

(b) whether Government would relax

the conditions to reach the benefit to the target group; and

(c) whether Government would launch a special scheme for providing loan to make TV serials on national integration and communal harmony?

### **Fall in industrial growth rate**

242. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian industrial growth rate recorded a fall in the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the extent of slide as compared to the growth rate of the corresponding months of the previous year;

(c) the reasons for the same; and

(d) the steps taken to arrest the fall in growth rate?

### **Allotment of PAN**

243. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications that have been received for the allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) along with the returns submitted by the assesseees during the assessment years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, year-wise;

(b) the number of Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) issued during the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps have been taken to do away the inconvenience being caused due to inordinate delay in allotment of PAN?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

**Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sahkari  
Awas Samiti**

244. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:  
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL  
VAHADANE:  
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH  
LIBRA:  
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question No. 420 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government have received representation regarding Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sahkari Awas Samiti;

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

(c) the names of members of Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sahkari Awas Samiti, Mohan Nagar who are allotted plots duly developed with dates of such allotments and amount collected in each case as (i) cost of land (plots) on sale; (ii) cost of land (plots) on re-sale and (iii) developments of plots item-wise separately in each case;

(d) whether such amounts have been reflected in Income Tax returns;

(e) if so, the details thereof in each case; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Collection of taxes under Indo-  
Myanmar Free Trade  
Agreement**

245. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central and State Agencies now posting for collection of export import taxes at the

Moreh (Manipur) under the Indo-Myanmar Free Trade Agreement, 1994 are failed to submit accurate details of collection of taxes; and

(b) the detail of their collection of taxes on year-wise basis and the measures taken to improve and to correct the malpractice of agencies in this trans-border areas?

**Downsizing of Ministries/Depts. of  
Government**

246. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geethakrishnan Committee has made specific recommendations to reduce flab in the Finance, Information and Broadcasting, Coal Petroleum and Chemical Ministries;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations;

(c) whether no Ministry is intended to implement the letter and spirit of the report of the Committee; and

(d) if so, what are Government's alternative plans?

**Value of rupee after terrorist attack in  
USA**

247. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rupee value touched an all time low with respect to dollar, following the terrorist-blasts on September 11, 2001, in New York and Washington;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to stabilise the rupee value; and

(c) in what manner, the value of rupee has fared during the following months?

### **Implementation of ERC**

248. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has recently submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same and the extent of economy in expenditure expected thereby, item-wise, during the current year?

### **SEBI's action against Cipla**

249. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cipla movement under SEBI lens" which appeared in the Economic Times, New Delhi on 22nd October, 2001;

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

(c) whether Government have initiated an inquiry into the sharp upward movement in the share prior to the inclusion in the sensex; and

(d) if so, the details of investigation?

### **Objectives achieved by Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme**

250. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme (KVSS) failed to realise its objective of delogging tax administration and raising revenue of fiscal significance;

(b) whether there were 21134 arrear

cases involving an amount of Rs. 3205 crore as on 1st September, 1999 under 22 Commissionarates when the scheme was introduced after cases were settled under KVSS;

(c) if so, the number of cases settled and the amount realised; and

(d) what are the reasons for its failure?

### **Non-debiting of Special Additional Duty**

251. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-debiting of Special Additional Duty (SAD), Duty Entitlement Pass Book and grant of exemption from SAD rather than taking its incidence into account for fixation of credit rate caused an irrecoverable loss of revenue of Rs. 666 crore during 1998-99; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

### **Review of dismantling of APM**

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed the scheduled dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism for the Petroleum Sector with effect from 1st April, 2002;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken to fulfil commitment to meet the deadline; and

(c) the details of the road map drawn-up, if any, towards sector decontrol involving *inter-alia* withdrawal of subsidies on Kerosene and cooking gas rationalizing duty structure and liquidating the oil pool deficit etc. and their present status?



#### **Reduction of subsidy on LPG**

253. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

#### **Utilisation of natural gas**

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

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to utilise natural gas in the country?

#### **Production of small size gas cylinders**

255. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce small size cooking gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the cost and gas weight of the cylinder; and

(c) whether Government have also agreed to reduce the cost of gas cylinders already in use; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Allocation of natural gas to Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) the quantum of natural gas allocated to Andhra Pradesh per day and the details of the industries which are generally the users of this gas; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase this allocation of natural gas so as to promote natural gas-based industries in the State?

#### **Redevelopment of Mumbai High**

257. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new project launched by ONGC to redevelop Mumbai High South offshore oilfield;

(b) the expected oil extraction therefrom; and

(c) by when the production will be boosted from these fields, being extracted since 1974?

#### **Review of Oil Stocking Policy**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a write up captioned "Asia needs to rethink oil stocking policy" which appeared in the Indian Express dated 14th September, 2001 highlighting *inter-alia* the vulnerability of Indian Oil Policy to supply disruptions as, reportedly. It does not operate State strategic reserves of oil for emergency;

- (b) if so, the reaction thereto; and
- (c) the steps being taken to review and create adequate oil reserves or to reduce its consumption and where possible, switch to alternative such as coal or gas?

#### **Oil importing agencies**

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

- (a) the total quantity of petroleum and other petroleum products imported during the last three years;
- (b) the details of foreign exchange spent on such imports during this period;
- (c) the names of agencies engaged in the importing of such products; and
- (d) the details of petroleum and petroleum products proposed to be imported during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, country-wise?

#### **ONGC funded projects in Andhra Pradesh**

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

- (a) the present status of the bridges on Vishist river and between Yanum and Yedhurulanka in Andhra Pradesh being funded by ONGC; and
- (b) by when these bridges will become operational?

#### **Committee on dealers' commission**

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

- (a) whether Government had constituted a committee to conduct study and recommend workable and justified dealers' commission in the year 2000;

(b) the names of cost elements alongwith probable values considered by the committee while recommending the dealers' commission and recommended rates of commission, item-wise;

(c) whether the committee has recommended to reimburse the actual draft commission paid by the dealers for making payments to the oil corporation;

(d) if not, whether the outstationed dealer shall be forced to bear extra cost as compared to local dealer; and

(e) if so, the reasons for discrimination?

#### **Sale of petroleum products**

†262. 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 the sale of petroleum products for consumption in the country has declined during the first six months of the financial year 2001-2002 in comparison to the first six months of the last year;

(b) if so, the quantum of petroleum products sold for consumption in the first six months of the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(c) the quantum of each of petroleum products sold out of the sale of total petroleum products in the aforesaid both periods?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

**Decline in consumption of petroleum products**

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

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

(a) whether Government have assessed the consumption of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, what has been the assessment for the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 separately;

(c) whether it is a fact that the actual consumption during the above said years and in first six months of the current year was less than this assessment; and

(d) if so, what is the difference between the assessment and actual consumption during the above said period?

**Crude oil production**

†264. 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 in the first half of the current year 2001-2002, production of crude oil has come down in the country as compared to that of first half of the last year;

(b) if so, the quantity of the crude oil produced in the country during both the aforesaid period;

(c) the deficiency in both the quantities *vis-a-vis* annual target of production; and

(d) the area of low production alongwith the reasons therefor?

**LPG cylinder orders placed by IOC and BPC**

265. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:  
SHRIDIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item "High Court Ka Aadesh Bhi Nahin Mana Petroleum Mantralaya Ne" which appeared in Jansatta dated the 25th September, 2001 regarding order of LPG cylinders by IOC and BPC;

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

(c) the details of the first time bidders and quantum of orders placed on them;

(d) whether IOC has placed 30 per cent of their order on one bidder only when there were more than 100 eligible bidders; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Restriction on import of petroleum product**

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to restrict the import of petroleum products;

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of petroleum products is growing due to the constant increase in the demand of petroleum products against the production of crude oil in the country; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Allotment of Petrol Pumps and LPG agencies**

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

(a) the details of Gas Agencies and Petrol Pumps allotted in the various States in the country during the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the targets laid down for the allotment of Gas Agencies and Petrol Pumps in the various States in the country during the year 2001-2002?

**Supply of underweight LPG cylinders**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG consumers in the country are being duped by distributors by supplying underweight cylinders as the seal of the cylinders are not tamper proof;

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

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure tamper proof seals on LPG cylinders by the Oil Companies so that consumers are not duped by dealers?

**Targeted dealership in Uttar Pradesh**

†269. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number for which target has been fixed for dealership/distributorship in Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(b) the number of interviews held by

Uttar Pradesh Dealer Selection Board for dealership so far; and

(c) the number of dealers belonging to Scheduled Caste out of them?

**Self-sufficiency in Hydro-Carbon Sector**

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

(a) what steps are Government taking towards achieving self-sufficiency in the Hydro-Carbon Sector;

(b) what percentage of our requirements of Crude Oil and Natural Gas is produced annually in the country; and

(c) the details of the production for the last three years, item-wise?

**Centenary celebrations of Digboi Oil Refinery**

271. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Digboi Oil Refinery in Assam, being the oldest refinery in Asia is completing 100 years of its existence;

(b) if so, the details of the incentives and promotional activities taken up to recognize its service to the Nation, excluding the celebrations; and

(c) the declarations, if any, already made in this regard?

**Demand and production of CNG**

272. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(a) whether it is a fact that CNG is in high demand to control pollution in metro cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide CNG on priority;

(c) the total production of CNG annually *vis-a-vis* the demand; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the gap between supply and demand?

#### **Trade restriction on dealers**

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

(a) whether the petroleum dealers are restrained from doing other business or profession after or before commissioning their dealerships/distributorships;

(b) if so, the reasons for selecting such candidates as dealers who are already showing income less than 2 lakhs from other business;

(c) if not, whether the Oil Corporations can terminate the dealership/distributorship of such dealers who are doing other additional business or profession in addition to the dealerships etc.; and

(d) whether such restrictions is tenable in law and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Remuneration to labour contractors of CoCo pumps**

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

(a) whether Government has directed Oil Corporations to calculate and pay the remuneration to labour contractors of CoCo pumps as per the minimum wages fixed by the State Government;

(b) if so, whether this policy of payment is applicable from the dates of appointments of CoCo pump Labour contractors;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, whether the Regional/ Divisional Offices have been directed to calculate and pay the remuneration to such contractors as per the minimum wages fixed in respective States from the dates of commissioning of such pumps for the sake of labour welfare; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Ban on sale of CNG at night in Delhi**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imposed a blanket ban on CNG dispensers running at night and as such these filling stations can now sell petrol and diesel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the numbers of three wheeler scooters that can be filled in a night from CNG dispensers in different parts of capital city can run several thousands at night;

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

(d) whether Government would permit petrol pump owners to supply CNG to TSRs at night?

#### **Suspension of LPG cylinder production by Balmer Lawrie**

276. SHRIDIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

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

(a) whether manufacture of LPG cylinders by M/s Balmer Lawrie a

subsidiary of IBP, has been suspended because of non-placement of order by oil companies;

(b) if so, the reason therefor and the action taken by Government for resuming the production; and

(c) if not, the order position on date?

#### **Abolition of subsidies on Kerosene and LPG**

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

(a) whether Government are firm are on resolve to abolish the administered pricing system for petroleum products by 1st April, 2002; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are contemplated to absorb subsidies on Kerosene and LPG?

#### **Oil pool deficit**

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

(a) whether Oil pool deficit has increased recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy of Government to manage the oil pool account;

(d) whether Government propose to increase oil prices in view of increased oil pool deficit; and

(e) if not, how Government propose to manage the oil pool account?

#### **Cost of linking of Ganga and Cauvery rivers**

279. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is the dream of Indians that Ganga and Cauvery rivers should be linked;

(b) if so, whether it is economically feasible; and

(c) what would be the approximate cost?

#### **Inter-State meeting of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on construction of feeder channels**

280. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have convened an inter-State meeting of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh Government on August 17, 2001 to discuss the controversy of AP constructing two feeder channels near Tumkur;

(b) if so, what were the main topics discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government had pointed out that the construction on one of the feeder channels has been stopped;

(d) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Completion of Salandi Irrigation Project in Orissa**

281. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Salandi Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) whether the entire amount has been sanctioned by the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details of the target date fixed for the completion of that project; and

(d) the details of progress made in the completion of that project as on date?

#### **Use of ground water**

282. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States and Union Territories have approached Government to enact legislation to regulate the use of ground water, if so, the details of the States and the Union Territories;

(b) by when Government are expected to enact such a legislation/regulations;

(c) the extent to which the heavy use of ground water shall have an adverse effect on environment and forests in the country; and

(d) the States that have already taken action to use ground water?

#### **Achievements of National Perspective Plan for linking of rivers**

283. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had mooted a National Perspective Plan for linking various rivers in the country and that National Water Development Agency was set up to carry out studies in this regard;

(b) the estimated outlay for the project;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred since the setting up of the NWDA (till date);

(d) the achievements made so far; and

(e) the present position of the project?

#### **Implementation of Supreme Court directions on Krishna Water dispute**

284. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest directions of the Supreme Court over Karnataka/Andhra Pradesh Water dispute on Krishna Water; and

(b) the action taken to implement them?

#### **Flourine in water in Kolar/Tumkur Districts**

285. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarming level of flourine contents in water in Kolar and some parts of Tumkur Districts;

(b) whether Government are also aware of prevalence of water borne diseases in these areas; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

#### **National Policy to share inter-State waters**

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

(a) whether a National Policy guidelines to share inter-State waters for development has been ordered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto?

(e) the amount sanctioned accordingly to modernise the irrigation projects?

#### **Storage capacity of Mullaperiyar Dam**

287. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the height upto which water is presently allowed to be stored at Mullaperiyar Dam for use in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the actual height upto which water could be stored;

(c) the reasons for storing water to a low height; and

(d) by when water will be allowed to be stored to full height for the benefit of Tamil Nadu;

#### **Modernisation of Irrigation Projects in Orissa**

288. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to modernise some irrigation projects in their respective States;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the proposals which have come to his Ministry;

(c) whether any such proposal has come from the Government of Orissa;

(d) if so, the steps taken to consider any such proposal; and

#### **Artificial recharge of ground water scheme**

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

(a) whether Government have identified the over exploited and dark blocks areas in respect of ground water in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether Government have constructed various recharge structures in these areas to implement Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Scheme; and

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

#### **Condition of extracted ground water**

290. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise condition of ground water extracted in the country;

(b) the quantum of ground water extracted for irrigation purposes resulting in receding of water table each year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

NEW DELHI;  
The 13th November, 2001  
*Kartika 22, 1923 (Saka)*

R.C. TRIPATHI,  
*Secretary-General.*



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