

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the December 20, 2005/Agrahayana 29, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Company Affairs; Finance; Heavy Industries and
Public Enterprises; Panchayati Raj; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Tourism;
Water Resources)**

Total number of questions —155

Subsidies for Haj

2887. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN
AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
provide subsidies to Haj Pilgrimage for 2005
and 2006 season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Haj Terminal at Lucknow airport

2888. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under
consideration of Government to provide
Haj Terminal at Lucknow airport for the
facilities to the Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this facility is expected to
be completed?

Infrastructure for air cargo

2889. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air-cargo
growth has been significantly higher in the
current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of
growth;

(c) what steps Government are taking
to sustain the present growth in this sector
in view of competition from the
neighbouring countries including
Bangladesh and Pakistan who are offering
competitive advantage; and

(d) what steps Government are
taking to improve the infrastructure
to cope up with the increasing number of
flights?

State Governments' entry in Civil Aviation sector

2890. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are not allowed to float their own airlines for operations on international routes;

(b) whether Centre has not allowed proposal of the State Government of Kerala to float an airlines to operate flights to Gulf region;

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

(d) how many States have urged Centre to allow them to float airlines in international routes; and

(e) whether Government have rejected all proposals submitted by State Governments?

Low cost airlines

2891. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the current status and future prospects of low cost airlines in the country;

(b) the number of low cost airlines in the market;

(c) the reasons for their slow growth despite of their tremendous potential in the country, the operational bottlenecks

and regulatory constraints currently faced by the Civil Aviation sector;

(d) whether low cost carriers in Indian Aviation industry has not grown substantially in greater speed and are not going to stabilize in the coming years; and

(e) what would be their pace of growth?

Direct air service between Bhubneshwar and Bangalore

2892. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no direct flight between Bhubneshwar and Bangalore;

(b) whether the State Government has made a request for this direct flight in view of development of their IT sector; and

(c) if so, the status of the case and the time-frame within which it would be done?

Expansion of international air services

†2893. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase air services to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of air services to America and Britain at present?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Installation of aviation obstruction warning lights

2894. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that aviation obstruction warning lights which properly guide the aircrafts are not installed at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that inferior quality lights are installed at the airports without proper checking; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for proper checking of such lights for the safety of the aircrafts?

Utilisation of air service agreements by IA and AI

2895. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air service agreements that India have with other countries;

(b) the details of air service agreements utilised by IA and AI;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is allowing some of the private airlines to fly to international destinations; and

(d) if so, the details of private airlines allowed to fly overseas and details of destinations to which they are allowed to fly?

Setting up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics

2896 DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a full-fledged Department of Aeronautics

to be over seen by Aeronautics Commission to evolve policy develop framework for varied aeronautical endeavours and to implement specific projects in order to promote national aeronautics related efforts in an organized manner; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NCAER report on air tariff

2897. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2165 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of NCAER; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Making AI Offices passenger friendly

2898. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps recently to streamline the working of Air India Offices abroad to make them more passenger friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Losses suffered by Sonegaon airport

2899. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sonegaon airport at Nagpur had incurred Rs. 15 crore loss and that AAI was running the Airport only because it is a socially useful facility;

(b) if so, the details of revenue and expenditure of Nagpur airport during April-September 2005 and from April 2004 to March 2005; and

(c) what measures are being taken to make Sonogaon airport a profit-making and what is the time-frame thereof?

Upgradation of runways at international airports

2900. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had given approval for setting up of various international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many international airports in the country lack runways of international standards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to upgrade the runways?

Proper utilization of airport infrastructure

2901. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an uneven distribution in the flow of traffic resulting in pressure on infrastructure at certain airports and massive under-utilization of existing infrastructure elsewhere;

(b) whether it is a fact that 520 odd flights land and take off from Delhi airport daily and for 40,000 passengers only 3+2 restrooms are available at Terminal II and Terminal IB, respectively; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for proper utilization of infrastructure particularly when in November-December fog disruptions may worsen congestion at IGI Airport Delhi and other airports in Northern India?

Suspension of operation of Mumbai Airport at night

2902. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from residents of Mumbai that Mumbai airport operation should be suspended between 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. as it is a violation of the guidelines on the subject; and

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

Website for airfares

2903. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that passengers have to consult individual airline website to check the best fares available in the market for all the domestic flights; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to make available the information on a single website?

International flights from Pune

2904. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pune is emerging as an international airport;

(b) if so, the number and details of international flights that are already commercially operational or are scheduled to be operational in foreseeable future;

(c) what is the estimated cost for expansion, development and modernisation of the airport;

(d) whether Government are taking any steps to implement the same; and

(e) by when it is expected to be completed?

Growth in air cargo

2905. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cargo airlines are poised to register an average annual growth of 6.26 percentage for the next 20 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the share of national carrier in the growth as compared to private carriers?

Performance of CAT-III B landing System

†2906. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAT-III B system is being installed to see that flights are not cancelled in case of fog and advantage likely to be gained thereby;

(b) the number of pilots who have been trained to work on this system; and

(c) whether Government propose to make foolproof arrangements for the safety of pilots engaged on this system as well as aircrafts and if not, the details thereof?

Development of non-metro airports by AAI

2907. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDFC and HUDCO have agreed to lend Rs. 5000

crores to facilitate the development of non-metro airports by AAI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that AAI propose to issue tax free airport bonds to finance its infrastructure development and also to meet the expenses for the development of non-metro airports;

(c) whether the Ministry have any action plan to implement the above projects; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed by which both development of non-metro airports and the infrastructure development could be completed?

Upgradation of skills of SFIO

2908. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the time lag between detection and prosecution of serious frauds in corporate sector is abnormally long and exasperating;

(b) whether Government feels that the skills of the Serious Fraud Investigative set-up is to be upgraded and equipped to handle prosecution assignments at judicial and court level; and

(c) whether Government would consider a commanding role for SFIO for probing corporate crimes which is presently handled by a myriad of agencies like Income Tax Department Customs, Narcotics Bureau, EOW, CBI and IB etc?

Delay in prosecution of the cases

2909. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time lag

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

between detection and prosecution of the cases processed by Serious Fraud Investigation Office is abnormally long;

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for the delay;

(c) what is the number of cases which are under its investigation for the last three years or more; and

(d) the remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure the early completion of investigation of those cases?

Engagement of external agencies for Competition Commission

2910. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have engaged outside agencies for building capacity of the Competition Commission of India; and

(b) if so, how will it ensure that the capacity building programme adequately reflects the development needs of the country rather than importing certain types of skills and approaches?

Cases handled by SFIO

†2911. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the ground on which the cases are handed over to Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) for investigation and the number of cases handed over to SFIO for investigation during the last three years;

(b) the progress made in each case with regard to investigation and by when the investigation work would be completed;

(c) the agency to which investigation work is assigned in cases of frauds involving the investors investing Rs. 50 crores or less than Rs. 5000;

(d) the number of cases which came to Government's notice during the last three years and the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Protection of interest of domestic companies

2912. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted Irani panel recommendations;

(b) if so, whether the views of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law has also been taken into consideration while drafting the Bill with the intention of adequately protecting the interests of domestic companies which intend to acquire overseas business through mergers and acquisitions route; and

(c) if so, by when this legislation will be enacted?

Import duty on cotton

2913. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation by any Commission to raise the import duty on cotton;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is the quantum of increase that has been suggested; and

(c) what steps are being considered by Government in this regard?

Refusal to issue fresh customs House Agents licenses

2914. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh customs House Agents licenses that are to be given regularly in January every year by Commissioners of Customs are being denied to many eligible aspirants in the trade as they are not opened for offer annually and wherever opened, are still not given to all the eligible aspirants despite their meeting all the conditions of the CHA-Licensing regulations; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the irregularity in such process which severely affects thousands of aspirants for CHA-Licenses across the country?

Rescheduling of loans to farmers in Tamil Nadu

2915. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI N.R.
GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to rains and floods in Tamil Nadu recently, the crops were damaged causing havoc to farmers;

(b) if so, whether the farmers who took loans from banks are requesting for rescheduling of the loans;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereto;

(d) whether Government propose to direct the banks to waive loans given to farmers in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Vacant posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax Department

2916. DR. ALLADI P.
RAJKUMAR:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax are lying vacant in the country;

(b) if so, the number of vacant posts and since when;

(c) the Income Tax amount piled up as a result thereof;

(d) how far such a shortage of the Chief Commissioners has adversely affected the functioning of the Income Tax Department; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for the recovery of Income Tax dues at the earliest?

Re-assessment of block assessment of Income Tax

2917. SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:
SHRI DARA SINGH
CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that re-assessment of block assessment of Income Tax was done for a large number of companies;

(b) if so, what are the names of these companies and the details of re-assessment; and

(c) what action is being taken on the re-assessment?

Special purpose vehicle for infrastructure sector

2918. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up Special Purpose Vehicle for infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, whether he has prepared a model concession agreement to facilitate public, private partnership;

(c) whether model concession agreements are being developed to facilitate public, private partnership for infrastructure;

(d) whether he has taken various measures to increase investment in infrastructure;

(e) if so, whether to accelerate and increase public, private partnerships in infrastructure, he has taken two major initiatives; and

(f) if so, what is the outcome of this decision?

Marginal growth in Income Tax collection

2919. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether till September, 15 this fiscal, corporation tax collections posted growth

of 55 per cent whereas personal Income Tax showed a marginal growth of about 5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether despite sluggish growth in Income Tax revenue that is way below the Budget target of 40 per cent, Government have projected 34 per cent growth in direct tax revenue;

(c) whether direct tax collections inclusive of FBT, Banking Cash Transaction Tax, Security Transaction Tax and wealth tax till August 30 grew 32 per cent to Rs. 36,000 crore; and

(d) if so, what are other steps being considered by Government to improve direct tax revenue?

Inadequate supply of finance to rural poor

2920. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has held various policies of Government responsible for a highly inadequate supply of finance to rural poor;

(b) whether in a report titled "Scaling up access to finance for India's rural poor", World Bank has pointed out that a combination of various factors has affected both banks and their clients;

(c) whether this has dried up costs and hampered access to poor;

(d) if so, Governments reaction on World Bank report and whether Government have suggested any measures to be taken in this regard; and

(e) by when final decision in implementing suggestions made by World Bank is considered?

Net Bank Credit in priority sector

2921. SHRI THENNALA G.
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, banks have to deploy 40 per cent of the total Net Bank Credit (NBC) in the priority sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that actual credit disbursement by most of the banks was short of stipulated level;

(c) the details of total agricultural advances given by banks as on March, 2003; and

(d) steps taken to achieve the NBC targets?

Donation received by charitable institutes from abroad

†2922. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Christian missionary institutions registered under Income Tax Act as charitable institutions in the country as on 31st October, 2005;

(b) the total amount of donation received by these institutions from abroad,

country-wise and donation received from India during the last three years;

(c) the number of Christian missionary institutions out of this number which have been provided exemption under the law under the Income Tax Act;

(d) the amount of exemption provided to them; and

(e) the details of the institutions out of these which file annual return under Income Tax Act?

VRS for employees of LIC

2923. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented a VRS for the employees of the LIC similar to the one implemented in the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have also decided to tap the primary market and float an IPO to raise funds for the LIC; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

National Insurance Scheme for poor

2924. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

announced a National Insurance Scheme for poor families;

(b) whether Government have a road map of the scheme for implementation;

(c) if so, what is the stage of its implementation; and

(d) what will be the time-frame before which the entire scheme could be implemented?

Simplification of loan to farmers

†2925. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would further simplify the procedure to grant loan to farmers and extend the limit of Kisan Credit Cards;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Guidelines by IRDA for unlimited insurance policies

2926. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is going to recommend the enhancement of FDI limit in Insurance Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that IRDA is likely to issue new guidelines for unlimited insurance policies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that tariff of motor vehicle insurance is also going to be revised and fixed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Reissue of mutilated currency notes

2927. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wads of currency notes reissued by the Public Sector Banks contain a large number of mutilated, partially cut, two-pieces, mismatched and old notes that have outlived their life;

(b) whether this practice is in violation of the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to avoid inconvenience to the customers?

Credit of Euro 43 million to SIDBI

2928. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is seeking a credit of Euro 43 million as part of its plan to increase credit flow to Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much credit is proposed to be given to North-Eastern Region as part of SIDBI's credit flow to Small Scale Industries, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Release of grants under Eleventh Finance Commission

2929. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request for release of final installment of Rs. 78.82 crores under the Eleventh Finance Commission grants for the period 2004-05 was submitted by the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) what is the present status of consideration of the request; and

(c) by when the funds are expected to be released?

Low spending on National Highways

2930. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spending on National Highways is less than 1 per cent of the country's GDP; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of low spending, which has resulted in scanty arterial network of highways, the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment in the country is getting affected?

Performance of VAT in States

2931. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether VAT regime has been introduced since 1st April, 2005 in several States;

(b) if so, the details of these States;

(c) the findings of review carried out, if any, of performance of VAT, particularly relating to levy of tax rates imposed on various commodities and variations in gross

earnings of these States compared to erstwhile sales tax, over the last six months;

(d) whether retail prices of various commodities witnessed substantial increase following the introduction of VAT or decreased; and

(e) the aggregate retail prices of selected commodities during the quarter preceding VAT and during the quarter following it?

Loans for building houses in urban areas

†2932. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC Housing Finance Ltd., ICICI and HDFC Bank offer long term loan of minimum rupees five lakhs to buy plot and build houses in urban areas only;

(b) if so, the reasons for ban on granting loan in rural areas whereas more than 70 per cent population of our country lives in villages;

(c) whether he will consider to issue directions to big housing finance companies and banks of public and private sector to grant long term loans of lower amount for the rural areas; and

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

Harassment of passengers at Karipur airport in Kerala

2933. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is taken against customs officials on complaints/reports of corruption, grafting etc. on the alleged harassment of passengers in Karipur airport located in Kerala;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof including number of cases registered, officials *prima-facie* involved, and charges levelled as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of assets of these officials observed/recorded and details of irregularities/graft found to be received as on today; and

(d) the number of cases registered and officials charged on above charges in various airports of Kerala during last three years, year-wise?

Corporatisation of mints and security presses

2934. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to corporatise Government mints and security printing presses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the trade unions served strike notices opposing corporatisation;

(d) if so, the present status and the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision?

World Bank assistance for projects in Uttar Pradesh

2935. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects launched with the assistance of World Bank in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of funds granted by the

World Bank for carrying out the works during the last three years?

Lahiri Committee Report on liberalisation of FII norms

2936. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lahiri Committee Report on liberalised Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) norms has since been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed reservations on some of the recommendations of the Lahiri Committee and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government are likely to take final view on the Lahiri Committee recommendations and put them into operation?

Hike in interest rates on post office deposits

2937. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to hike interest rates on short term and long term post office deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Outstanding loan of account holders

2938. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 13000 borrowal accounts with more than Rs. 1 crore outstanding loan;

(b) if so, the name of such account holders with the amount due, time of issuing the loan and the issuing branch;

(c) why no action has been taken to recover these loans; and

(d) who are responsible for its recovery and whether action should be taken against them?

Pending cases of disbursements under Duty Drawback Scheme

2939. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of disbursements pending before the customs officials to be paid to the exporters under Duty Drawback Scheme and the period since this has been withheld by the Customs Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of assurance given by CBEC in the meeting held with the exporters, the amount has not been released; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry propose to solve this problem?

Roadmap for revival of IFCI

2940. SHRI MAJOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IFCI is in the red for some times and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any roadmap for the revival of the company;

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

(d) whether Government have allowed the dilution of its shareholding below 51 per cent in the IFCI; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Abolition of Central Sales Tax

2941. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government benefit from the imposition of Central Sales Tax (CST);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to abolish the CST;

(d) if so, the estimated revenue loss to each State by abolition of CST and how it is to be compensated;

(e) whether the State Governments are demanding to bring taxation of services under the States purview to compensate for revenue losses that will arise from the abolition of CST;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) Government's reaction thereto?

Ban on charitable trusts from External Commercial Borrowings

2942. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether charitable trusts are banned out of External Commercial Borrowings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that with this charitable trusts especially in health care sector would be put to difficulties; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

Setting up of Institute of Insurance Surveyors

2943. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority has set up an Institute of Insurance Surveyors; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Deterioration of services in SBI branch

2944. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the installation of new Core Banking Solution (CBS) in the State Bank of India, Sansadiya Soudh, New Delhi, the efficiency of the bank has deteriorated;
- (b) whether the State Bank of India has received complaints from the customers regarding incorrect account statement, delay in credit of clearing cheques, incorrect passbook printing, display of incorrect balance of accounts in the ATM and long queues in the branch; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to train the staff in the new software and improve the working of the branch?

Islamic Banking System

2945. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government have asked the Reserve Bank of India to explore ways to introduce Islamic Banking in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when Islamic Banking will be introduced in the country?

Funds allocated for development projects in Maharashtra

2946. SHRI VASANT CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total funds allocated for the various development projects in Maharashtra during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the funds allocated have been released;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reporting of third party transactions

2947. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government requires Registrars of immovable property to report third party transactions of prescribed minimum value of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for Income Tax purposes;
- (b) whether Government have sought the help of the State Governments to educate the Registrars and sub-Registrars of the requirement under Income Tax Act, 1961; and
- (c) whether the feedback from the Registrars to the Income Tax Authorities are scanty and irregular?

Simplification of Income Tax filing form

2948. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the innovative steps taken by

Government to simplify the standard Income Tax filing form;

(b) what are the difficulties of Government in having a simple form designed appropriately;

(c) whether a Task Force has been set up to design and submit a simplified Income Tax filing form;

(d) if so, whether this Task Force has completed its work; and

(e) if not, the Task Force will complete the work in this fiscal?

Opening of economy for attracting FDI

2949. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Prime Minister during his recent visit to New Delhi called for further opening up of Indian economy to attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the European Union; and

(b) if so, the precise demands made by the EU President, and the estimated amount of additional FDI expected from EU, sector-wise?

Role model for economic growth of Asian countries

2950. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has identified India as the pace-setter for the economic growth of other Asian countries; and

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

Sanctions on Urban Co-operative Banks in AP

2951. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI had imposed sanctions on the Urban Co-operative Banks in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year;

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

(c) the reasons in each case;

(d) whether the RBI had reviewed the working conditions of the Urban Co-operative Bank in AP recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Rescheduling of loans of States

2952. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have rescheduled the loans of various States as per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are enhancing the loans to various States especially for Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the loan amount of Andhra Pradesh to be paid to Centre as on date; and

(g) the interest being paid by Andhra Pradesh to Centre per month?

Achievement of targets by PPF

2953. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the objective and purpose for which PPF was introduced;

(b) whether it is a fact that PPF has failed to fully meet the set goal;

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

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to ensure that PPF fully meets its social objective?

Loans to unemployed youths

†2954. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks take a lot of time in sanctioning the loans to unemployed youths under the Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the number of cases of loan disbursement is not more than 60 per cent against the sanctioned cases and sanctioned amount is also not fully released in several cases; and

(c) the details of the action taken with regard to reviewing of each case and to avoid delay in sanctioning of loans keeping strict control over the functioning of its branches?

Interest paid on foreign loans

2955. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much loan the country has obtained from the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions during the last three years till date, agency-wise and year-wise;

(b) how much interest the country has paid back to the concerned International Financial Institutions till date, agency-wise and year-wise; and

(c) how much foreign loan is still required to be paid back till date including the interest which might accrue thereon, agency-wise and year-wise?

Structural Adjustment Loan to Maharashtra

2956. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments have requested the Central Government for a one-time grant of soft loan and forwarding their Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) to the World Bank to help them overcome the current financial crisis;

(b) if so, the extent of one-time grant and Structural Adjustment Loan sought by Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) what is the response of the Central Government to the State Government of Maharashtra and other State Governments' demands?

Merger of Bank of India with Union Bank of India

2957. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the suggestions have been received for merger of Bank of India with Union Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for this merger?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Offering of shares of unlisted State owned companies

2958. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer shares of the unlisted State owned companies to public as an alternative of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

Release of funds to States

†2959. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the amount as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission to the States;

(b) if so, the amount to be received by Madhya Pradesh for the year 2005-06 for three tier Panchayati Raj Institutions and the amount released out of this alongwith the date of release;

(c) by when the remaining amount will be released; and

(d) the reasons for not releasing the entire amount?

Common credit cards to small workers

†2960. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide common credit cards to small workers like carpenters, tailors and masons for getting loans from banks;

(b) if so, the criteria being fixed for availing this benefit; and

(c) the details of the action taken/ proposed to be taken?

Service tax on future premium of LIC

2961. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing life insurance policies which have been taken before imposition to service tax are also attracted to pay the service tax on their future premia;

(b) whether this move will not hit over 15 crores policy holders badly; and

(c) if so, how Government are contemplating to remedy them?

Expansion of banking operations abroad

2962. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for selected Public Sector Banks to have foreign operations and expand its activities abroad; and

(b) if so, how many banks have been identified to start banking operations abroad?

Central loans to States

2963. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Central loans granted to various States, State-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether the interest on the loans accounts for more than ten per cent of the total State Governments expenditure;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Planning Commission suggests to waive all Central loans granted to States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it is likely to be implemented?

**MoU with Karnataka for
modernisation of Co-operative banks**

2964. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government of Karnataka for modernisation of the administrative system of the Urban Co-operative banks in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when the MoU was signed;

(c) how many Urban Co-operative banks are functioning in Karnataka;

(d) what is the amount of deposit held by these banks;

(e) which are the banks identified for modernisation under the above MoU; and

(f) the amount proposed to be spent in this regard?

**Fiscal measures for industrial
investment in Uttaranchal**

2965. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered a package of very attractive incentives, fiscal and non-fiscal measures attracting industrial investments in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh for a period of 10 years; and

(b) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has pleaded for extension of these incentives to one most backward district in each of the three backward regions of Andhra Pradesh namely Telangana, Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra, in view of availability of surplus skilled man-power and other infrastructure like Research and Development facilities in several backward districts of Andhra Pradesh?

**Operation of foreign banks in rural
areas**

2966. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign banks are operating only in Metros and other big cities in India;

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

(c) whether Government are completing to make it mandatory for foreign banks to open branches in small towns and if not, the reasons therefor?

Role of banks in rise in sensex

2967. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crossing of the 8000 mark by the sensex has ramifications for the small time investors;

(b) whether Government have undertaken investigation in this regard by regulators and investigating agencies; and

(c) if so, the details of the findings on the role of Public Sector Banks and NBFCs in this unusual market behaviour?

Outstanding Income Tax collection

†2968. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of Income Tax outstanding;
- (b) the names of major tax defaulters; and
- (c) the steps Government propose to take for the recovery of the outstanding amount of Income Tax from these tax defaulters?

NPAs of banks

2969. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of NPAs above Rs. 100 crores in the Public Sector Banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of action taken to recover them; and
- (d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for closing these accounts?

Revival of BHPV

2970. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would take early favourable decision in reviving M/s Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited (BHPV), Visakhapatnam, as it is one of the oldest industries set-up in Andhra Pradesh which played a vital role towards national industrial growth for several decades and a very large number of auxiliary/ancillary industries of Visakhapatnam totally depend for their survival on the revival of BHPV;

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

Revival of Burn Standard and Braithwaite

2971. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether public sector wagon industry is having serious working capital shortage in the execution of wagon order in hand;
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government to address the issue in the case of M/s Braithwaite and M/s Burn Standard;
- (c) whether Prime Minister's intervention has been sought in clinching the issue regarding non-remunerative old orders of railways and supply of free bogie coupler by railways to the public sector wagon industry;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of time bound action plan to sanction revival schemes of M/s Braithwaite and M/s Burn Standard?

Investment of PSUs' share

2972. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a study by an industry body association PSU can continue to fill state coffers while

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government retains management control and remains largest shareholder in the PSU;

(b) whether stock markets can earn Government a huge sum of Rs. 31,000 crores if it disinvests only 10 per cent of its stake in each of top public sector undertakings, if so, whether Government are seriously considering the option of this investment on PSUs; and

(c) what are the main reasons and by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Coordination between CPSEs

2973. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Public Enterprises does not regularly maintain the updated data regarding the implementation of its guidelines by the CPSEs despite its mandate to co-ordinate the general policies of non-financial nature;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether absence of such updated data with the Department hampers in fulfilling its mandate; and

(d) if so, what corrective steps are being taken to enhance the effectiveness of the Department in co-ordinating the non-financial issues of the CPSEs?

Evaluation of surplus land of sick PSEs

†2974. SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 455 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2005 and state:

(a) the date of constitution of BRPSE meant for giving recommendations for revival and future of Public Sector Undertakings alongwith its jurisdiction;

(b) the names of PSUs running in loss alongwith the reason therefor with regard to each of them;

(c) the names of PSUs whose surplus land has been evaluated;

(d) by when the surplus land would be evaluated; and

(e) whether any Committee has been constituted for this purpose?

OIC's new entity for overseas oil exploration

2975. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether Government have allowed Oil India Limited to constitute a new entity to acquire oil exploration and production properties abroad;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether Government will consider extending similar allowances to other public enterprises dealing in oil and petroleum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Subjects transferred to Panchayats

†2976. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution, 23 main subjects were to be transferred to the Panchayats;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which these subjects have been transferred; and

(c) the steps being taken by Central Government to get these subjects transferred to Panchayats in the States where the same have not been transferred as yet?

Grants from foreign countries for Panchayats

2977. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any plan to seek grants from foreign countries for the development of Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of rural business hubs

†2978. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to establish rural business hubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States identified for developing rural business hubs;

(d) whether States will be provided financial assistance for establishing rural business hubs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when these hubs are likely to be established?

Status of Chairpersons of Zilla Panchayats

2979. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairpersons of Zilla Panchayats in various States in the country have been conferred with the status of Ministers/Minister of States;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that District Collectors do not accord necessary respect and co-operation to the Chairpersons in some States;

(d) whether Government have received such complaints; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Allocation of funds to Gram Panchayats

†2980. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government provides some funds to State Governments by directly allocating the same to Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the funds provided to each State Government for allocating the same to each Panchayat during the last three years and the works for which these funds have been provided;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the purpose of sending funds to Panchayats directly; and

(d) the details of the verification of the fact that each Panchayat has received allocated amount?

Modernization of petrol retail outlets

2981. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2916 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) the total number of petrol/diesel pumps modernized so far and the average cost per modernization;

(b) the number of them that are Government-owned and how many are owned by private dealers; and

(c) the justification in spending money for private dealers?

Production of bio-diesel

2982. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some organizations have developed bio-diesel from plants which is energy efficient and cost effective;

(b) whether this bio-diesel is pollution free and cheaper as compared to other petroleum products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken to enhance the production of bio-diesel from plants in future?

Feasibility study on coal gasification

2983. SHRI CHITTABRATA

MAJUMDAR:

SHRI DIPANKAR

MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether GAIL has initiated action for commissioning a detailed feasibility report study for commercial implementation of coal gasification process;

(b) if so, the status of the report;

(c) whether ONGC is also exploring the possibility of coal gasification with a proven process technology for utilizing Indian coal; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

Asian oil market

2984. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Asian countries have agreed to work together for mutual cross investment to re-inforce trading in oil and gas and associated downstream industries as optimal means of promoting stability, security and sustainability in the Asian oil economy; and

(b) if so, whether any headway has been shown by the Asian countries in this regard?

LPG price in international market

‡2985. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR

JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of LPG is less than that of kerosene oil;

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the selling price of LPG to general consumers in the country is found to be more than the LPG price in the international market; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the above price exceeds on an average?

**HPCL's refinery project at
Visakhapatnam**

2986. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL plans to invest Rs.18000 crores for funding a new 15 million tonne export-oriented refinery at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and another Rs.135 cores to increase capacity of its existing refinery;

(b) whether HPCL has decided to implement the project through a subsidy and will seek foreign partners for building refinery;

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

**Adulteration of petroleum products in
Bihar**

†2987. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the adulteration in petroleum products in the rural areas and small towns;

(b) if so, what action Government

propose to take to check the same and also to ensure proper supply of commodities to consumers;

(c) the number of raids conducted during the last six months by the officers on the dealers/distributors of various oil companies situated in Buxar district of Bihar; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty during those raids?

ONGC's investment in oil refineries

†2988. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal of ONGC, a Government undertaking for making investment in Mangalore, Kakinada and Barmer oil refineries is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount proposed to be invested; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Supply of gas to power plants

†2989. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of gas to power generating plants has been less than their requirements;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the quantum of gas presently supplied to each power generating project; and

(d) the demand of each project?

Promotion of bio-diesel plants

†2990. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers can now grow those plants by which bio-diesel can be obtained alongwith the growing of plants for food grains;

(b) whether traditional farming will not be affected by it; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken by farmers to grow the bio-diesel plants?

Sale of LPG on national highways

†2991. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Public Sector Gas Company's dealer/agents are making sub-dealers and those sub-dealers are selling cylinder in black market on national highways, indulging in commercial use of gas cylinders and selling cylinders in black market for use in vehicles as fuel;

(b) the details of the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not taking action in above respect in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh?

Implementation of coal gasification projects

†2992. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a plan for the gasification of coal deposits not fit for mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent by Government for the implementation of the scheme?

Allocation of kerosene to Orissa

2993. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has made a request for enhancement of allocation of 40,000 kl. kerosene per month to the State to meet the needs of remote and un-electrified areas of the backward State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre has only made additional allocation of 9871 kl. on 25th January, 2005 per month for two months, which falls short of the bare requirements;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance it to at least 40,000 kl. per month as already requested by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the status thereof and the time-frame within which this would be agreed to?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MoU with Korea in Oil sector

2994. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an MoU with Korea for oil exploration and production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely impact on oil industry in the country?

IOC's LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam (A.P.)

2995. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into an MoU with Krishnapatnam Port Company for the establishment of LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time frame by which IOC will establish the LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam Port; and

(d) whether Government have issued any instructions to IOC in this regard?

Booking of gas through telephone

†2996. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cooking gas (LPG) is available in sufficient quantity in the country;

(b) if so, whether gas connections are made available on demand;

(c) if not, the details of measures being taken to make these connections available on demand; and

(d) whether the system of booking gas refill on telephones would be continued?

Pipavav Power Project

2997. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Centre its concern for not being able to implement the Pipavav Power Project because of non-supply of gas despite Centre's commitment in the past;

(b) whether Government would allocate the required quantity of gas for this project from Tapti fields since the production has now started in this field; and

(c) whether the Central Government has gone back on its commitment leading to grave injustice to the Saurashtra region for whose development, this power project is very crucial?

Complaints against IGL

2998. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against Indraprastha Gas Limited regarding deposits of some amounts for pipelines in Vasant Kunj area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Alternative for LPG

2999. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing shortage of LPG at present;

(b) if so, the annual requirement and availability of LPG at present;

(c) whether there is any proposal to substitute any other fuel for LPG;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and how the alternative fuel is proposed to be procured; and

(e) whether the same would be supplied to the consumers at the same price as that approved for LPG for the domestic consumers?

Kisan Seva Kendras at IOC outlets

†3000. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is considering to set up retail outlets namely 'Kisan Seva Kendras' in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such retail outlets proposed to be set-up during the current year, State-wise?

Sale of adulterated petrol in Delhi

3001. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that adulteration of petrol and diesel is taking place on a massive scale in the capital;

(b) whether this is done in connivance with the officials of IOC and HPCL; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any stringent action against the petrol pumps and if so, the penalty imposed by Government?

Operation of oil companies

3002. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many oil companies have shown keen interest in downstream oil refining, petrochemical, LNG and collaboration as well as acquiring stake in companies abroad including Government organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to allow them to do so; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Advisors for Indo-Iran pipeline project

3003. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received good response for appointment of Advisors for Iran pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have appointed Advisors for Iran pipeline out of the proposal it received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Scarcity of LPG in Andhra Pradesh

3004. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

districts of Andhra Pradesh like Guntur and Prakasam it takes forty-five days to get a refill of LPG gas these days;

(b) if so, the detailed causes for such delay in giving LPG gas to domestic users;

(c) the steps proposed to study the reasons for the delay in giving such LPG gas cylinders in some areas;

(d) whether such delays are restricted only to Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Commercial use of LPG

3005. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LPG cylinders are being diverted for commercial use in connivance with LPG agencies and its delivery boys, there put Government to financial loss;

(b) what remedial measures Government have taken to check this malpractice; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the erring agencies during the last three years, year-wise?

Oil reserves in North-Eastern Region

†3006. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge natural reserves of oil and gas are available in some States of North-Eastern Region;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to establish a series of gas based power stations in North-Eastern Region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Import of LNG

3007. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imports of LNG are in jeopardy from any country recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some companies have refused to supply compressors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this direction to improve the situation?

Waiting list for LPG in Punjab

3008. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in Punjab as on date, district-wise; and

(b) by when the list is likely to be cleared?

Supply of PDS kerosene to fishing activity

3009. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop dispensing PDS kerosene to fishing activity;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether views of the fishing community would be ascertained before implementing the policy; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Petroleum outlets

†3010. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of petrol/diesel pumps being operated by the public sector petroleum companies, the locations of such petrol pumps and the postal addresses of these petrol pumps, the details of names of companies operating these petrol pumps, company-wise; and
- (b) the rules for allotting coco diesel/petrol pumps on contract basis and the number of diesel/petrol pumps allotted by the oil companies on contract; company-wise?

Frauds in ITDC

†3011. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the serving and ex-officers of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) have committed fraud amounting to lakhs of rupees during the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to recover the said amount from the officers involved; and

- (d) the steps taken to make the system fool-proof so that the officers do not get involved in such unfair activities?

Agreements on development of tourism

3012. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have signed any agreement with foreign countries under the open sky policy in tourism sector;
- (b) if so, the number of foreign tourists estimated in the coming years under this agreement;
- (c) the number of tourists arrived in the country during the last year; and
- (d) whether any scheme is being formulated for providing facilities to the tourists and also development of tourist spots in the country to make India a leading tourist destination in the world?

Tourism projects in Tamil Nadu

3013. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of tourism projects in Tamil Nadu were under consideration in the year 2004-05;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, place-wise and district-wise;
- (c) the number of projects sanctioned and pending as on date;
- (d) by when the projects are likely to be given approval; and
- (e) the Central aid sought and that actually given to the State Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Initiatives to increase inflow of tourist

3014. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken to increase the inflow of tourist in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Financial assistance for tourism development

3015. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of proposals have been received by the Central Government from the State Governments for financial assistance for tourism development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the amount sanctioned and released for such developmental projects?

Programmes to attract tourists

3016. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a programme titled 'Atithi Devo Bhava' in seven States to attract more tourists;
- (b) if so, the details of the programme and facilities offered under it;
- (c) whether this programme will be extended to more States; and

(d) if so, the proposed schedule of extension thereof?

Facilities for foreign tourists at temple towns

3017. SHRI SU.
THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tourists visited the country during each of the last three years;
- (b) the foreign exchange earned as a result of tourists arrival in the country during the each of the last three years;
- (c) whether Government propose to augment infrastructural facilities in major temple towns of the country which attract large number of foreign tourists; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of tourist spots in UP and North-Eastern Region

3018. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new places and areas have been identified by Government for the development of tourist areas in Uttar Pradesh and North-Eastern States during the current financial-year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with the budget allocation; and
- (c) the details of the projects formulated by the Central Government for the development of these areas?

Development of crop tourism

3019. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Kerala proposes to develop crop tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will increase tourist arrivals, rejuvenate agricultural sector through additional increase in sale and value of farm produce and generate employment opportunities; and

(d) whether such a project is also proposed to be launched in other regions including Orissa, if so, the details thereof?

Sale of hotel building by Ashoka Beach Resort

3020. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total extent of land and hotel building owned by the former Ashoka Beach Resort under ITDC in Kerala, sold to Gulfar Group and the reasons for such transfer;

(b) whether the land under Halcyon Castle included in the above sale and if so, whether any records exist to establish the ownership of Castle to ITDC; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any inquiry on the illegal transfer of Kovalam Palace at par with that of Centaur Hotel and the reaction of Government thereto?

Irrigation projects

†3021. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 58 years of Independence, our country is

dependent on rains for 57 per cent of its agriculture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the present enhanced amount of the cost of irrigation potential per hectare from Rs. 1500 of the first plan; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the budget in terms of crores of rupees carried forward by irrigation projects (big and medium) from Ninth Five Year Plan to Tenth Plan and the details of the approved and unapproved projects?

Surface water and ground water resources for irrigated agriculture land

†3022. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that surface water resources and ground water resources irrigated 21-mission and 27-million hectare of agriculture land respectively in the country;

(b) if not, details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that more of surface water available in the country can be utilized for irrigation; and

(d) if so, volume of surface water available for irrigation in the country?

Work on river water unification

†3023. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on river water unification has begun;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the names of the rivers in Rajasthan on which work of unification is in swing and by when the work would be completed; and

(c) the details thereof?

Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh

3024. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to Polavaram project with the proposed design, 300 villages in 9 mandals in three districts of Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing more than 2 lakh tribal people and their livelihood; and

(b) when there are better alternative project designs available that obviate such massive submergence, why the Central Government allowed to proceed with the present project design?

Salary to the employees of NPCC

†3025. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the salary of the employees of NPCC Ltd. was not revised on 1st January, 1992 as well as 1st January, 1997;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the salary of all the officers and some of the employees has been revised from time to time;

(c) if so, the reasons for the discrimination being made with its employees; and

(d) by when Government would take steps to stop the discrimination being made by the managers of NPCC with its employees?

Rain water harvesting in Tamil Nadu

3026. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu has sought Central assistance to harness rain water in the State for irrigational and drinking purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

Funds for NCPP

3027. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) had lately been drawn out by Government, if so, the details of the NCPP, phase-wise and the estimated cost thereof;

(b) whether funding of the project is to be shared by external funding agencies, if so, the details of shares of the funding agencies including that of the Central and State Governments; and

(c) the shares of such funding to be met by the State Government of Maharashtra and other maritime States?

Scarcity of water in the country

†3028. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during rainy

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

season in the country water harvesting can be carried on only for 30 days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that storage capacity through water harvesting in the country is just 200 cubic metre per capita at present;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to less storage capacity, the problem of scarcity of water in the country is mounting?

Meetings of Joint River Commission between India and Bangladesh

3029. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decisions taken at the recent meetings of Joint River Commission between India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether Government have announced its commitment to implement the decision;

(c) whether the action by Government would substantially reduce the risks of floods and soil erosion in several Indian territories; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Loss of lives and property due to flood in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh

†3030. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss of life and property

in the villages situated near Gangi, Tamsa and other rivers due to floods in August-September, 2005 in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government to save the life and property of people of those villages and cities which are situated on the banks of rivers?

Schemes to irrigate one crore hectare land

3031. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced that one crore hectare land would be irrigated in coming five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schemes allotted to Jammu and Kashmir in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of rain water harvesting scheme

3032. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what step his Ministry has taken to make rain water harvesting more popular;

(b) how much subsidy is provided by the Ministry for implementing rain water harvesting schemes; and

(c) what steps are being taken to bring these schemes closer to the common people, so that they may benefit from it?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Master Plan for North-Eastern rivers

3033. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Master Plan in regard to different rivers of the North-East taken up by the Brahmaputra Board;

(b) how many of these belong to State of Tripura and the amount sanctioned against each of them;

(c) whether the amount has not been sanctioned in respect of any of them, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent of development of works where sanctions are made?

Polavaram project

3034. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to Polavaram project with the proposed design, 300 villages in 9 mandals in three districts of Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing more than 2 lakh tribal people and their livelihood; and

(b) what are the reasons for which the Central Government was allowed to proceed with the present project design when there are better alternative project designs available that obviate such massive submergence?

Sanction of Sutiapat reservoir project, Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh

†3035. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) the date on which sanction was accorded to Sutiapat reservoir project of Rajnandgaon district and the date on which it was forwarded to State Finance Department for latest cost;

(b) whether Government are making any special efforts to expedite the commencement of project and also to avoid further delay;

(c) whether Government would make any special effort for expediting sanction to Kelo Project and Rajiv Augmentation Scheme (Phase-II) also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Per capita water storage in the country

3036. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present level of per capita water storage in the country;

(b) whether there is any plan for increasing the present level to ensure appropriate water security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

World Bank loan for water management

†3037. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a report related to the water management of India, World Bank has mentioned that the water management situation is becoming serious day by day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this report it has been mentioned that the water

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

supply system of Delhi is the worst water supply system of the world and water of Delhi is polluted and the water of sewers is flowing into the pipes of water;

(c) if so, the details of the report;

(d) Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the details of the loan sanctioned by the World Bank for water management together with the details of the projects for which the loan was sanctioned?

Linking of Sutlej and Beas rivers

3038. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of linking Sutlej and Beas rivers has not been fully resolved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the issue; and

(d) what are the other rivers which are being linked and their present status?

Cleaning of rivers and lakes

3039. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to siltification, big rivers, lakes, dam reservoirs get choked, which results in loss of water as well as floods;

(b) if so, what is the estimate of Government regarding the quantum of loss per year;

(c) whether Government have identified certain rivers/ reservoirs/lakes etc. for desiltification;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the schemes proposed to be undertaken; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to improve the scenario and to make it labour friendly?

Acute shortage of ground water in Rajasthan

3040. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan falls under the category of the States with acute shortage of potable drinking water;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have any plan to provide special economic grant to Rajasthan by according special status to this State under National Water Policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) which are the other States, which have been accorded such special status;

(e) whether there are any towns in Rajasthan which have been covered under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme till date; and

(f) if so, their names and grants sanctioned by the Central Government?

Setting up of Water Management Body

3041. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent report of the World Bank predicting a bleak future for Indian water economy has prompted Government to consider setting up of a Water Management Body; and

(b) whether Government are culling out drawing inputs from the recently
model clauses from Maharashtra Water constituted water management systems in
Resources Regulatory Act as well as Karnataka and Haryana?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th December, 2005
Agrahayana 23, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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