

## 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 21, 2004/Agrahayana 30, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Civil Aviation; Company Affairs; Finance; Panchayati Raj;  
Petroleum and Natural gas; Tourism; Water Resources)**

**Total number of questions — 155**

#### **Petitions against Air India Management**

1900. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 419 writ petitions are pending in several courts in India filed by Air India employees against the Air India Management;

(b) if so, whether it conveys collapse of administrative machinery, high-handedness, lack of transparency in the decision making process and arbitrary use of power and authority by Air India officials; and

(c) the measures taken by the Air India Management to curb abusive use of power and authority by high officials, to ensure that employee discontent and grievance is redressed and misuse of power with malafide intentions curbed, and to ensure employee satisfaction and improved productivity?

#### **Entry of private airlines in international sector**

1901. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:  
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:  
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:  
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private airlines were allowed to expand their international operations to more destinations including services to South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC);

(b) if so, the details including private airlines and destinations allowed as on today;

(c) whether steps will be taken to allow national carriers (Indian Airlines and Air India) to induct capacity by expanding their fleet renewal programmes to meet long term capacity needs on international routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether competent authority will postpone the sanction given to private airlines till national carriers strengthen their fleet?

### **Landing rights for foreign airlines**

1902. SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:  
SHRIANAND SHARMA:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign airlines which have been given landing rights by India in cities other than International gateways;

(b) the names of the foreign airlines and the indian cities for which such rights have been granted;

(c) whether the foreign countries concerned have given reciprocal rights to Indian Carriers; and

(d) the details for five year period from 1999-2004 country and airline-wise?

### **Entry of private airlines in international sector**

1903. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN  
AHMED:  
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR  
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the proposal of allowing private airlines to fly foreign skies;

(b) if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(c) whether it will affect the income/ business of State Carriers?

### **Discounted fares on Goa-London sector**

1904. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

a large number of private international carriers are flying to Goa from London and other European countries during this season;

(b) whether Government are also aware that these private airlines are offering Goa-London return fare at about Rs. 16,000/- per passenger; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to match this fare on Air India's flight to London and Europe?

### **Commercial use of Safdarjung Airport**

1905. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to use Safdarjung Airport for commercial activities;

(b) if so, whether it would tamper with the heritage status of the area;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the past too, various such plans of commercialisation have been shelved in view of the opposition from various agencies;

(d) if so, whether Government have explored to develop this piece of land into a horticulture park or use for ballooning carnivals, micro light tourist flights or as National Air Museum; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Use of old 747 aircrafts**

1906. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the age of many 747 aircrafts is such that these can no more be used as per International standards; and

(b) whether any such aircrafts are still in use and if so, the reasons therefor?

**Black marketing of concessional tickets**

1907. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airline companies have offered attractive economy packages for passengers to attract tourists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that concessional tickets have been purchased by travel agents denying benefits to legitimate passengers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to check black marketing by travel agents?

**Operation of airport at  
Lakhimpurkhiri district in U.P.**

†1908. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aerodrome is in existence for over the last ten years at Palia Kalan near Lakhimpurkhiri district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making the same operational whereas the aerodrome is situated near the Dudhwa National Park and bear importance in view of tourism; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to make the same operational and by when it is likely to be operational?

**Installation of Automated Baggage  
Reconciliation System**

1909. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to instal Automated Baggage Reconciliation System at Indira Gandhi International Airport to reduce the incidents of loss of baggage;

(b) the details thereof and by when it will be installed; and

(c) by when the system will be installed in other International Airports in the country?

**Handing over of Rajkot Airport to AAI**

1910. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with the Airports Authority of India and handed over Rajkot Airport to AAI for further development and operation;

(b) if so, the likely time of its completion;

(c) by when it is going to be operated; and

(d) whether any plan for expansion of the runway has been finalized?

**Financial crisis in Tulip Star hotel**

1911. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the hotel Tulip Star (erstwhile Juhu Centaur) is going through a severe financial crisis and the employees are not getting salaries on time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take to protect the interest of the employees of this divested hotel?

**Development of non-metro airports**

1912. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi

are contemplating to develop 22 Non Metro Airports and introduce attendant service called "Swagat Seva" to boost tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with financial allocation made for the purpose and the targeted date for operationalising the project?

#### **Expansion of smaller airports**

†1913. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small airports in the country and how many of these are connected with regular flights;

(b) whether some State Governments have submitted a proposal for expansion of these airports and connecting them with regular flights;

(c) if so, whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has also submitted any such proposal;

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to expand Gouchar Chinyalsourh and Pithauragarh airstrips in Uttaranchal and also to connect them with regular flights; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Appointments in Indian Airlines**

1914. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitments under peculiar circumstances exist in recruitment rules of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the persons employed during the last five years with names, age, post, appointing authority and peculiar circumstances of each case;

(c) whether the facts of peculiar circumstances had been verified before offering the job, the details of such verifying agency;

(d) whether persons already in service are entitled for this;

(e) the details of newspaper in which such posts were advertised with date; and

(f) whether complaints against concealment of facts have been received against them; if so, the details and the present status of complaint?

#### **Disappearance of listed companies**

1915. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 21, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether out of 185 companies with total monetary exposure of Rs. 1150 crores identified as vanishing companies, only 82 companies with total issue size of 600 crores responded to the notice and if so, the action taken against them so far;

(b) the reasons for not responding to the notice by the remaining 103 companies and action taken against them; and

(c) the number of companies who brought IPOs during 1992—98 in existence and what action is being taken against the missing companies who defrauded the poor investors?

#### **Penal actions against Reliance Capital Ltd.**

1916. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1998-99, Government had initiated penal actions

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi

against M/s Reliance Capital Ltd. (formerly Reliance Cap. & Fin.);

(b) whether same penal actions were also initiated against M/s Sterlite industries (India) Ltd. during the same period; and

(c) if so, the present status of the cases?

#### **Credit facilities to farmers through banks**

1917. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any policy and implemented any scheme to give crop loans, term loans and various Government credit facilities through Banks to farmers who are agriculture tenants and share croppers and farmers who do not have Pattadar Pass books, as more suicide deaths are taking place amongst these categories of farmers, who are exploited by private money lenders through abnormal rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government would assure of implementing schemes to benefit them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Rate of interest on loans raised by State Governments**

1918. SHRISURESH BHARDWAJ:  
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans, category-wise and the agency from which obtained with rate of interest in each case, raised by each State Government in the country;

(b) whether there is any limit beyond which a State Government cannot raise a

loan; if so, whether any State Government transgressed this limit;

(c) if so, the names of State Governments which are defaulters; and

(d) what do Central Government propose to do to help improve the financial position of the State, including writing off the loan?

#### **Probe into Hawala transactions in Kerala**

1919. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India, within last three years, has directed authorities for a detailed probe in Hawala transactions worth crores of rupees that occurred in Kerala;

(b) if so, the action taken in detail;

(c) the estimated total amount of money through hawala transactions in Kerala for the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the details of action taken in illegal transfer of money amounting to Rs. 708 crores through regular banking channels during period 2000-02; and

(e) the details of source and beneficiaries of above fund?

#### **Fake Stamp Scam**

1920. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fake Stamp Scam was handed over to CBI for investigation some times back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present position of investigation;

(c) whether any person has been arrested, so far, and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount of fake stamp papers seized, so far, togetherwith the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such irregularities in future?

**Central sales tax on pharmaceutical raw material**

1921. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central sales tax on pharmaceutical raw material and medicines in Gujarat is 2.2 per cent *vis-a-vis* in other States of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this disparity and the steps taken by Government to immediately stop this imbalance in the rate of Central sales tax, which is affecting growth of pharmaceutical industry in other States?

**Disinvestment of PSUs**

1922. SHRIMATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Government enterprises and Government undertakings were put to disinvestment by selling shares to the tune of 50 per cent or more during the period upto 31st March, 2004 alongwith the names of establishments;

(b) how many of them were losing concerns and how many were gaining concerns;

(c) the amount earned by Government by way of disinvestment; and

(d) how many workers and employees lost their jobs in those establishments after their being disinvested upto 31st March,

2004 excepting those getting normal retirement?

**Functioning of Global Trust Bank**

†1923. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI C. RAMACHAN-  
DRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the downfall of Global Trust Bank had started three and a half years ago and by March 2002, it had gone bankrupt due to its corrupt business and its involvement in Ketan Parekh scandal, even though Reserve Bank continued to monitor it and it took three and a half years to close this bank;

(b) if so, whether mistakes committed by Reserve Bank and the loopholes of auditing system were responsible for it; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to prevent such incidents in future and to implement cautious monitoring, transparency and better auditing standards in Reserve Bank?

**Modification of rules for promoting foreign investments**

1924. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to attract foreign investment, Government have decided to make certain amendments in the relevant rules to dispense with the requirement for foreign investors to a "No Objection" Certificate from Indian counterparts before making fresh investments;

(b) whether with this change in the rules, the intending foreign investors can

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

issue fresh shares through automatic route without clearance from Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

(c) what other modifications in the rules have been made for promoting foreign investments by way of FDI and FIIs?

#### **Curtailment of Government expenditure**

1925. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:  
SHRIMATIMAYA SINGH:  
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some directions have been issued to various Central Government Departments to adopt certain austerity measures in official expenditure so as to bring about savings of more than Rs. 2000 crores annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the Centralized monitoring mechanism established to help achieve the desired level of savings through various Departments; and

(c) the details of steps taken to check any deterioration in services provided by the concerned Departments while implementing the expenditure compression measures?

#### **Clean note policy**

1926. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is getting tougher with implementation of its, clean note policy';

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that inscribing messages, slogans and various remarks or defacement, disfigurement and

scrawling on currency notes is prohibited under the Legal Tender Act, 1964;

(c) whether it is a fact that now banks can refuse to accept defaced and disfigured currency notes; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to educate the ordinary customers about the upkeep and proper handling of currency?

#### **Loan sanction**

†1927. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of total loans sanctioned by the Scheduled Commercial Banks, 61.50 per cent loans have been sanctioned to metropolitan areas during the year 2003-04, whereas in rural and semi-urban areas only 9.57 per cent and 11.38 per cent have been sanctioned respectively;

(b) if not, the facts with regard to the above; and

(c) the reasons for such a big difference?

#### **Educational loans to students**

†1928. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nationalised Banks provide loan to the students or their parents for the purpose of higher education;

(b) if so, what is the total number of those students who were provided with loans during the years 2001-02, 2002-03,

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

2003-04 and in the first six months of 2004-05 and what is average amount of loans;

(c) what is the total amount of loan given by each of the banks during the above period; and

(d) what are the rates of interest charged by each of the banks on such loans?

**Fulfilment of targeted growth in agriculture sector lending**

1929. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has called a meeting of bank chiefs to review fulfilment of targeted 30 per cent growth in agriculture sector lending;

(b) if so, whether banks have sought an amendment to Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act which got diluted after a court verdict;

(c) whether in the meeting back drop of poor credit flow to agriculture in 2003-04 and increasing incidents of suicide by debt ridden farmers were discussed;

(d) to what extent the meeting has been able to discuss these issues; and

(e) what are the concrete steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

**Lending to priority sectors**

1930. SHRIMATI SAVITA  
SHARDA:  
SHRIS.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a minimum limit stipulated for

commercial banks, both in public sector and private sectors for providing lending to priority sectors of economy, namely agriculture, cottage and small scale enterprises;

(b) if so, the details of the limit stipulated from time to time during the last five years;

(c) the occasions when the PSU and private sector banks fell short of meeting those stipulations with year-wise details along with volume of short falls;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken, if any, to substitute the credit needs of the priority sector in those years?

**Inflation rate**

1931. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:  
SHRIS.M. LALJAN BASHA:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA  
SHARDA:  
SHRIDARA SINGH:  
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA  
RAO:  
SHRI MURLI DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rate of inflation on the 6th November, 2004 was recorded at 7.76 per cent;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the RBI's inability to use monetary tools to control inflation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the RBI has expressed its inability to control inflation;

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

(e) whether there is any proposal to study the recent operations of RBI in this regard;

(f) the steps proposed to control inflationary pressure in the country;



(g) whether this rise in prices can vitiate the overall atmosphere of low and stable interest rates of banks effecting the credit delivery to agriculture and industry; and

(h) if so, the assessment thereof and the expected increase in interest rates?

#### **Implementation of VAT in States**

1932. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:  
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status with regard to the implementation of Value Added Tax in different States in the country;

(b) whether some States are already implementing VAT, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages/disadvantages that are attached with this new tax system and the impediments that exist in implementing it in all the States; and

(d) by when Government expect to implement VAT system in the entire country?

#### **Reversal of foreign aid policy**

1933. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR  
SANGHI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reversed existing foreign aid policy and has decided to accept bilateral development assistance from all G-8 countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided that bilateral aid inflows would be restricted to bring India's repayment commitments to minimum;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for reversing existing foreign trade policy;

(d) if so, what are details of policy that is being considered and to what extent it will be different than earlier one; and

(e) to what extent this policy will be more beneficial to India?

#### **Rank of India among reformers**

1934. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has applauded our efforts for reforms and has rated India among the Ten reformers in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India still ranks in the bottom quartile among the 145 nations surveyed on the ease of doing business;

(c) whether the apex bank has suggested certain measures to overcome obstacles coming in the way of our growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Fifth Round Table Conference on Panchayati Raj**

1935. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that National Media ignores Rural India and even when journalists are specifically taken on Government expenses to cover events like Fifth Round Table Conference on Panchayati Raj, none of the Reports of the Conference was published; and

(b) if so, in what way he plans to disseminate news/view about thorough spread of message of such Panchayati Raj Round Table conference, which are supposed to be vehicle for taking the country to prosperity?

**World Bank loan for modernisation of fire services**

1936. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank proposes to give Rs. 1,000 crore loan for modernisation of fire services in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the agency that would monitor the project at the centre; and

(c) the amount that would be made available to Orissa for up-gradation of their infrastructure?

**Due amount of M/s Rockland Leasing Company Ltd.**

1937. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made as per the judgement delivered on 5th December, 2001, by Hon'ble Delhi High Court in which they had appointed a liquidator to release the money due to the victims of M/s Rockland leasing Company Ltd. after the sale of the company's assets;

(b) the list of recipients of this money, State-wise particularly in Himachal Pradesh as many Senior Citizens had deposited their all pensionary benefits with such companies; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to ensure fair implementation of the decision?

**Enquiry into disinvestment of BALCO**

†1938. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various employees' organisations have been demanding fair enquiry into the matter of disinvestment of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO);

(b) if so, whether Government are considering an enquiry to make the sale of BALCO fair and transparent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Banking Cooperative Societies**

1939. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Banking Co-operative societies at par with commercial banking companies by Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to withhold the move?

**Expenditure on foreign travel**

1940. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more expenditure has been incurred on foreign travel expenses of officers and Ministers during 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Norms for tractor financing**

1941. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether norms have been eased for tractor financing by certain banks;

(b) if so, whether other banks would follow suit;

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Committee to examine optimal fund requirement of Ministries**

1942. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to examine optimal fund requirement of each Ministry;

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

(c) whether this Committee has since submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the broad details of its recommendations?

**Evasion of Income Tax**

1943. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the law of the land and its machinery, there are cases of evasion of income tax;

(b) if so, whether it is due to system failure or human failure or both;

(c) whether there will be a fool-proof system to control and contain this evil, if not possible to eradicate; and

(d) whether there can be another fool-proof system to unearth the illgotten black money that is largely available in this country?

**Limit on Island special allowance**

1944. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Island special allowance is given to Central Government employees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as percentage of basic pay without any maximum limit;

(b) whether the employees of Nationalized Banks are getting the Island special allowance with the maximum limit of Rs. 1500/- per month; and

(c) what are the reasons for this limit in case of banks and by when Government propose to remove it?

**Financing by NHB**

1945. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank (NHB) has been financing housing schemes and projects through the Non-Banking Housing Finance Companies (NBHFCs); and

(b) if so, the extent of refinance made by NHB through NBHFCs in Uttar Pradesh, compared to that in other States during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

**Excise duty on tobacco products**

†1946. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KISHORE  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impose new tax and excise duty on tobacco and its products on the basis of the report on tobacco control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the comparative details of the revenue being earned at present through tobacco and its products and the expenses incurred on the treatment of diseases caused by consumption of tobacco?

**Eligibility for H.R.A.**

1947. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the admissibility and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

eligibility of House Rent Allowance to Government servants is subject to producing Ration Card, LPG connection, Electoral Identity Card, Landlord's House Rent Receipt etc. otherwise they are not eligible and entitled to draw House Rent Allowance;

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

(c) under what provisions of H.R.A. Rules, the above requirements are demanded by Government from the Government servants and the details of those cases in which Government have denied to make payment of HRA on account of non-fulfilment of the above requirements?

#### **NPAs of Urban Co-operative Banks**

1948. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NPAs of Urban Co-operative Banks have been increasing over the last several years;

(b) the details of NPAs of UCBs as on 30th September, 2004 showing debt, slab-wise number of NPA debtors' account *e.g.*, number of accounts in Rs. 50,000 debt slab, Rs. 1,00,000, Rs. 2,00,000 and so on;

(c) the details of NPAs and bad debts of UCBs year-wise and State-wise for the last five years;

(d) the reasons for increase in NPAs and failure of recovery;

(e) steps contemplated, if any, for recovery of NPAs within a specific time-frame;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **New Opium Policy**

†1949. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploitation and difficulties of farmers have increased due to new Opium Policy of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to make changes in the above policy in the interest of farmers;

(c) whether farmers of Mandsaur, Ratlam and Nimach districts in Madhya Pradesh have sent a 13-point memorandum to Government against the said policy; and

(d) if so, Government's point of view regarding this new opium policy?

#### **Service tax on Life Insurance Services**

1950. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Services have come under service tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the new services that have been brought under tax net since June, 2004; and

(d) the other new services likely to be brought under tax net?

#### **Recommendation of 11th Finance Commission**

1951. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance in development indicators, such as health and education of States are also considered as parameters for recommendations of 11th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details including

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

recommendations for various States and parameters considered by 11th Finance Commission;

(c) whether Government of Kerala requested the Finance Commission to set right the imbalances in recommendations of Commission;

(d) if so, the action taken with details thereof; and

(e) whether steps will be taken to develop criteria for recommendations of Finance Commission so that the States can maintain their performance in development indicators, such as health and education?

#### **Income tax exemption to patrons of Sports Authority of A.P.**

1952. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's decision already taken/proposed to be taken in response to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh letter dated the 20th June, 2003 addressed to him seeking Income Tax exemption under Section 80(g) to financial sponsors and patrons of Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor in not taking a favourable decision in this regard to reduce State's financial burden to some extent with regard to sports activities in Andhra Pradesh?

#### **Raising O.M.B. under Debt Swap Scheme**

1953. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra has *vide* his letter dated the 28th May, 2004 requested the Central Government to allow the State

Government to use its discretion in timing and purpose of raising Open Market Borrowings under Debt Swap Scheme; and

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

#### **Office of Ombudsman for direct taxes**

1954. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering creation of an office of Ombudsman for direct taxes; and

(b) if so, the role of the Ombudsman and the status of the proposal?

#### **Salaried tax payers under security net**

1955. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salaried tax payers are likely to be brought under security net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total earnings Government receive from salaried tax payers and from non-salaried tax payers; and

(d) whether salaried tax payers are subject to more harassment than non-salaried class?

#### **Increase in FDI**

1956. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is among the top four FDI destinations, but is well below the top ranking China, according to the survey conducted by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report; and