

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the March 22, 2005/Chaitra 1, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

Impact of open sky accord with US on airfares

2161. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an open sky accord has lately been signed and enforced with the US;

(b) if so, the precise impact of this accord on the civil aviation relations between the two countries in terms of increase and mutual growth of aviation traffic; and

(c) how far air tariff between the two countries has been reduced as a result thereof?

Restoration of airtservices to Jabalpur

†2162. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the air service facility for Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action Government are going to take to reconnect Jabalpur with air service?

Airport at Ajmer

†2163. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Ajmer being the city of world famous the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti and the Trithraj Pushkar Ajmer is a famous tourist place and a need for an airport is being felt here for a long time;

(b) whether a proposal from the State Government of Rajasthan demanding an airport at Ajmer is under consideration of Central Government for long;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to build an airport at Ajmer; and

(d) if so, by when and at where this construction work will be started in Ajmer togetherwith the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Acquisition of land for Trivandrum International Airport

2164. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition for the first phase of Trivandrum International Airport terminal has been completed and if so, the extent of land acquired for the above purpose and whether Airports Authority of India has taken possession of the acquired land;

(b) what is the progress of the land acquisition process for the second phase; and

(c) the extent of land proposed to be acquired for the second phase and the time likely by which the process will be completed?

Fixation of price of ATF

†2165. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel which is used by the aircrafts for flights, are being fixed on the basis of prices prevailing in international market;

(b) if not, the basis on which the said price is being fixed;

(c) whether any proposal has been submitted to the concerned department for reducing its price; and

(d) if so, how much reduction is sought in the proposal and the price of said fuel in the country for foreign flights?

Dilution of Government equity in Air India and Indian Airlines

2166. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines intend to off load 10 per cent of Government share to public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the amount that is expected to be generated by this off loading and the details of purposes for which the money would be used?

Screening of pornographic films at IGI Airport, Delhi

2167. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pornographic films have been screened at IGI Airport, New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of persons arrested in this regard?

Pending air service agreements

2168. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) names of the countries with whom Bilateral Air Services Agreement entered into by Government during the last three year;

(b) the utilization of seats by the Indian and foreign carriers under these agreements during the last years;

(c) whether any proposal pertaining to the signing of the Bilateral Air Services

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Agreement is presently under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Airlines' tie-up with foreign airlines

2169. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector airlines in India have developed ties with foreign airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Carriers like Air India and Indian Airlines are losing the revenue due to the ties with the foreign airlines; and

(d) if so, the loss of such revenue due to the tie-up with foreign airlines during the last three years?

Development of Mandakalli airport at Mysore

2170. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to take up the development of Mandakalli airport at Mysore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the extent of land sought for by Government;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India has made any survey;

(d) whether the State Government of Karnataka has entered into the MoU with the Airports Authority of India agreeing to the terms and conditions proposed by Government; and

(e) what is the present status of the above project?

Recruitment of pilots by IA

2171. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has decided to inducting large number of pilots for its global flights; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Airlines is inducting new flights for expanding its operations in the National and International sector?

Abolition of CST on ATF

2172. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abolished Central Sales Tax (CST) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for designated Indian Carriers flying abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this CST on ATF shall have to be paid for domestic flights;

(d) whether his ministry has requested the Ministry of Finance to give some relief on ATF cost for domestic flights also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

Direct air service between Bagdogra and Mumbai/Kathmandu

2173. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a public demand to have direct flights between Bagdogra and Kathmandu and Bagdogra and Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the decisions of Government thereon?

Passenger friendly amenities at airports

2174. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to make the International tourists more comfortable and passenger-friendly at our airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that our infrastructure as well as hospitality quotients have found themselves unprepared to meet rising inflow of tourists;

(c) whether Government have any contingency plans to meet these fast growing infrastructure requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Independent Civil Aviation Authority

2175. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish an independent Civil Aviation Authority to oversee the civil aviation sector; and

(b) if so, the structure of the proposed Authority and the date by which it will become operational?

Entry of private sector players in AIF supply at airports

2176. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Civil Aviation Policy will end the monopoly of Public Sector Oil Companies in supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at Indian airports;

(b) whether Government propose to bring in more competition by allowing

private sector players to enter the business; and

(c) whether the private sector players will be provided the same infrastructure as available to the public sector players?

Expansion of Madurai airport

2177. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress and stage of expansion of Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu for international flights to land;

(b) by when it will be completed and thrown open for use; and

(c) whether Government would consider naming the said airport after the great and highly respected leader "Sri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar" on its completion?

Expansion of Bangalore Airport's International Departure Lounge

2178. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether renovation, expansion and refurbishing of Bangalore airport's international departure lounge is long overdue, due to sudden spurt in traffic volume;

(b) whether a revenue of around Rs. 1.50 crores is generated presently by sale of entry tickets to international departure lounge at Bangalore; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider undertaking the expansion/renovation plans for international departure lounge estimated to cost around Rs. 1.60 crores?

Cancellation of flights between Delhi and Visakhapatnam

2179. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flights between Visakhapatnam and Delhi were discontinued suddenly;

(b) if so, the reasons for such stoppage of flights between Visakhapatnam and Delhi and other cities;

(c) whether adequate notice is given to passengers who have booked their seats much in advance;

(d) in what manner does Indian Airlines help passengers who planned their journeys much in advance and found that Indian Airlines or Alliance Air does not stick to its schedules; and

(e) the details of such policies and the rectifying steps proposed?

IPOs by AI and IA

2180. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: SHRIMATI SUKHBUN KAUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the Air India and Indian Airlines have been asked to prepare the ground to launch their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) by the end of this year to aid their expansion plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the employees of both Air India and Indian Airlines would be given price preferential and firm allotment of IPO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Permission to non-scheduled airlines to operate in the country

2181. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted permission to non-scheduled airlines to operate in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of airlines who have been accorded permission, with the equity base of each airlines; and

(c) the number of applications which are pending as on 31.1.2005 with Government for approval alongwith the names of airlines?

Airports under construction

2182. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Airports constructed/ under construction in the country to provide air connectivity to all important cities; and

(b) the details thereof alongwith the financial allocation made of this purpose?

Panel on Management of airports

2183. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high powered panel of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary to deal with all non-financing and non-aviation issues like acquisition of land, access, power supply, security, custom clearance, visas and passports in connection with management of airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the panel has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted by the panel?

Airports megaplan

2184. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved Rs. 40,000 crore airports megaplan;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the allocation for each airport, work to be undertaken, date of commencement of work and the date of completion of work; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure timely completion of work without cost escalation?

Commercial operations from Salem airport

2185. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to start commercial operations from Salem airport in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Policy on development of airports

2186. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for development,

construction and modernisation of various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the location-wise details of airports in the country to be developed and modernised;

(c) the details of funds allotted for the same during the current year, airport-wise; and

(d) the present status of the above projects?

Passengers Feedback Scheme

2187. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have held draw of the Passengers Feedback Scheme 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of responses which were received by Government through this scheme during the year 2004;

(d) whether Government have received any suggestions from the passengers that sensitive films should be hand checked and not X-rayed; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

Air accidents

2188. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents involving flights of Indian Airlines, Air India and private airlines during the last two years;

(b) the causes of each of these accidents; and

(c) the details of compensation paid to the deceased and injured in such accidents?

Training to pilots for new hi-tech aircrafts

2189. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of acquiring latest hi-tech aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken to procure spare parts and impart training to maintenance crew well in advance; and

(d) whether Indian pilots would be trained by supplier of aircrafts before putting aircrafts into use?

Reduction in air fares

†2190. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fares slashed each year by airlines operating in the country during the last three years in domestic and international flights separately;

(b) whether there is any proposal from any airlines for promoting domestic tourism by further slashing passenger fares of domestic flights; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Concessions in air fares to passengers

2191. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some private carriers are offering competitively low fares for tickets booked in advance;

(b) whether the national air carriers will also extend such concessions to attract passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the occupancy rate has come down in national air carriers recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Air services from Madhya Pradesh to Southern States

†2192. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide air services from Madhya Pradesh to South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to reconnect Jabalpur with air services is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Bumper Super Saver Scheme of IA

†2193. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to the increased competition with private airlines, the Indian Airlines has taken a decision to introduce a scheme called Bumper Super Saver for attracting those passengers who fly frequently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Task Force on air service in NER

2194. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force was constituted to examine and make recommendations for improving airport infrastructure and airlinks in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Task Force has also recommended the development of Silchar Airport runway; and

(d) if so, what is the status of the developmental work of the Silchar airport?

Decline in international fares

2195. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to Government's decision to open up the global skies by allowing Competition from private airlines and by liberalising air connectivity with outside world international airfares from India have sharply come down;

(b) if so, how far the international air fares have come down during 2004-2005, with respect to AI, the national carrier; and

(c) how it is likely to affect Air India's and Indian Airlines' profitability and viability indicating comparative profit and loss figures of AI and IA during 2002-2003, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005?

Airport in Ludhiana

2196. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an airport somewhere near Ludhiana in Punjab to cater the needs of large number of people of Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Refund of investors money from NBFCS

†2197. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have succeeded in getting the money refunded to the investors from the non-banking companies which vanished with their money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the money of investors will be refunded?

Vanishing NBFCS/registered companies

2198. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of registered companies and those listed on stock exchanges that have vanished leaving investors pauperized, as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the steps taken to trace the promoters and compensate the investors of the vanished companies;

(c) the number of companies whose promoters have been caught and their assets seized, as on 31st December, 2004;

(d) the number of complaints received from investors of those vanished companies; and

(e) the action initiated/taken for payment of compensation to them?

Recommendations of JPC on share tainted companies

2199. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the recommendations by the JPC on the Shares tainted companies;

(b) the names of the companies against whom probe has been ordered; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what are the results and what action has been taken against the Directors of the Companies?

(f) whether it is a fact that cases are being cleared only selectively causing undue delay to routine applicants?

Report of Competition Commission

2200. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which was to replace the erstwhile Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, has started functioning;

(b) if so, how far it has achieved the purposes envisioned at the time of its setting up;

(c) whether it has submitted any Interim Report or regular Report to Government either *suo-moto* or on specific request of Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Managerial remuneration cases

2201. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases of approvals for managerial remunerations are pending for more than three to four years in the department;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending for more than three/two/one years respectively alongwith their names;

(c) the reasons for such a backlog of pendency in the department;

(d) what steps are being taken to clear the backlog;

(e) by when this backlog is likely to be cleared; and

Soft loan from ADB for re-construction of Tsunami hit areas

2202. SHRIMATI. SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any grant or soft loan from the Asian Tsunami Trust Fund established by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas damaged by the Tsunami which occurred on December 26, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Complaints against employees of Allahabad Bank

2203. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints/information/cases against the employees of Allahabad Bank in transferring the vehicles on forged documents with Transport Authority, Delhi and their involvements in any court/criminal cases other than bank business have been received;

(b) if so, the details with present status including names, designation, place of postings of those employees with particulars of the vehicles involved;

(c) whether permissions for loans for such vehicles were sought by such employees;

(d) whether unscrupulous employees are still holding independent charge of banks unit, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in view of (a), (c) and (d) above?

NPAs of banks

†2204. SHRIMATI. SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding amount of NPAs in various banks in the country;

(b) whether this amount has reduced or increased during the last three years;

(c) whether the previous Government had implemented any scheme to pay the lumpsum amount of NPAs; and

(d) if so, how far that scheme has proved effective?

Depositor friendly guidelines by RBI

2205. 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 (RBI) has issued depositor - friendly guidelines to facilitate consolidation and emergence of strong entities in the cooperative banking sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines?

Charging of service tax from students

2206. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private institutions having their registered offices outside Delhi are imparting training to students for competitive examinations in Engineering and Medical education and they have started charging service tax from the students at the rate of 10.5 percent of the fee instead of paying service tax from the income of the institutions;

(b) whether some private medical institutions have also started charging service tax from the patients in the same manner in Delhi; and

(c) whether such service tax on students and patients is permissible and if not, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Annual Narcotics Certification Report

2207. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annual Narcotics Certification Report presented to the US Congress and released by the President of the USA indicated India as one of the major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries of the world;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this Report submitted to the Congress; and

(c) the details of drugs seized in India during the last three years, year-wise and drug-wise?

Amendment to Securitisation Act

2208. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring an amendment to the Enforcement of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Security Interest and Recovery of Debt Act to strengthen banks in recovering dues from the defaulters;

(b) how the proposed amendment would prevent the defaulters from employing delaying tactics by using the Supreme Court's ruling;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the SC has struck down Sub-section (2) of Section 17 of the above Act;

(d) if so, the reasons behind striking down the above Sub-section; and

(e) what Government propose to do in this regard?

Merger of RRBs with sponsor banks

2209. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether three Nationalised Banks have submitted proposals for amalgamating some of the Regional Rural Banks sponsored by them and the proposals are awaiting the response of the respective State Governments;

(b) whether the consolidation proposals are lying with him and will be proceeded further after Government have received the States' views on this issue; and

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

Transfer policy of SBI, Delhi region

2210. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfer policy for officers and staff is not adhered by the State Bank of India in Delhi region;

(b) whether it is a fact that some officers and staff are working for more than five years in the branches like Nirman Bhawan, Sansadiya Soudh, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to rotate officers and staff every five years as provided in the service manual of the bank?

Pension scheme for unorganised sector workers

2211. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five-member team has been appointed by the Asian Development Bank to work out a pension scheme for the approximately 37 crore unorganised sector workers in India;

(b) if so, whether the team has already submitted its reports to Government;

(c) whether the survey covered 40,800 individuals employed in the unorganised sector and has considered the situation in urban and rural areas separately; and

(d) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the group in its report and by when Government are likely to consider its recommendations?

**Utilisation of money collected by
Residuary Non-Banking
Companies**

2212. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had issued new
regulations for utilisation of money
collected by Residuary Non-Banking
Companies which would impose massive
squeeze on the companies;

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

(c) whether Government have received
any representation for the withdrawal of
those regulations and if so, the details
thereof and what action has been taken
thereto?

Unearthing of black money

2213. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether an In-house Committee had
been constituted by the Central Board of
Direct Taxes (CBDT) to unearth black
money and assets;

(b) whether it had submitted its
report; if so, what are its recommendations;
and

(c) how many amnesty schemes have
been launched till today and how are they
effective to deal with the menace of black
money in Indian economy?

Irregularities in the working of GTB

†2214. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oriental
Bank of Commerce in its internal audit has
found out gross irregularities in the working
of the Global Trust Bank;

(b) if so, the details of irregularities
detected during investigation by the bank;

(c) the extent of loans the Global Trust
Bank had disbursed during the years from
1998 to 2004;

(d) the full details of such borrowers
who owe one crore of rupees or more to
the Global Trust Bank;

(e) whether the said borrowers are
repaying their loans on time; and

(f) the details of the steps Government
have taken to recover the same?

Management of Capital inflow

2215. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI report on currency
finance 2003-04 has recognized that if not
managed appropriately, the surge in capital
inflow into India could trigger a future
financial crisis; and

(b) if so, what appropriate policies are
formulated to manage the inflow?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Uniform stamp duty

2216. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a uniform stamp duty regime of 5 per cent across all States to unearth black money and to develop a robust secondary market in real estate;

(b) whether the Prime Minister has favoured this regime and he would come up with a policy framework in the Union Budget to enable States to move to 5 per cent stamp duty;

(c) if so, to what extent this decision of Government have been welcomed; and

(d) whether all the States have agreed to this proposal?

DA due to Central Government employees

2217. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of additional dearness allowance/relief, in terms of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission that has become due to the Central Government employees and pensioners *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2005; and

(b) by when the announcement to release the same is likely to be made?

Traders' stir against service tax

2218. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traders have

launched a nation wide stir to protest against the service tax imposed by the Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the traders all over the country are miffed with Government's decision; and

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

Raise in gratuity limit

2219. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered any proposal to raise the gratuity limit consequent upon the merger of D.A. for Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in similar circumstances in the past, Government had correspondingly raised gratuity limits without any reference to Pay body; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government in the matter this time?

Excise exemption on pharma industries

2220. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the specific areas in the country where complete/partial excise exemption on the pharma industries is pledged till 2017;

(b) what would be the projected shortfall in excise revenue per State, Year-wise in the coming years;

(c) whether such exemption of excise concession is for the job work done and the effect on the prices of medicines to the consumer; and

(d) if so, how does Government ensure level playing field to industries in other parts of the country, where huge investments have been made?

White paper on disinvestment

2221. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to prepare and issue a comprehensive white paper on disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the white paper is likely to be issued;

(d) the basic differences between the disinvestment policy of the present Government and the one pursued by the previous Government; and

(e) whether steps are being taken in this context to ensure that the profit making public sector undertakings are left out of the disinvestment plan and are given full managerial and commercial autonomy for effective functioning?

Tie up of GIC subsidiaries with private companies

2222. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many GIC subsidiaries like National Insurance Company and New India Assurance have tied up with private players in life insurance field like Birla Sunlife and APM Sanmar, respectively to sell composite products;

(b) whether such tie-ups between life and general insurance companies are in violation of IRDA regulations; and

(c) whether the IRDA has permitted

banking personnel to sell insurance and hybrid products like deposits with built-in life cover?

Profit earned from investment in stocks

2223. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed non-Government provident funds to directly invest in stocks where debt instruments floated by the company have an investment grade from at least two credit-rating agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) who will keep the profits earned from shares and how the fund would be kept intact in case of loss; and

(d) whether his Ministry have cleared the proposal and how the interest of the labour would be safeguarded?

Share of FIIs in stock market

2224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of FIIs in the Indian stock market, *vis-a-vis* the share of commercial banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the 5 per cent limit imposed on the banks on their participation in equities is hindering their increased exposure;

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

(d) whether Government have considering to enhance the limit to facilitate greater participation of banks in stock markets; and

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

Reduction of interest burden of States

2225. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to curtail the interest burden on State Governments, the Central Government have decided to pass the loans extended by multilateral agencies like the World Bank and ADB to the States;

(b) the present interest burden on Uttar Pradesh and other State Governments and how far this decision is likely to reduce their interest burden; and

(c) what other suggestions have been made by the State Governments and approved by the Central Government to help relieve the debt burden?

World Bank loan for implementation of Slum sanitation programme on Mumbai

2226. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for obtaining loan from World Bank through the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Finance for implementing slum sanitation programme, stage-II in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Victimisation of Tsunami affected people by private money lenders

2227. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private money lenders have come forward to help the victims of Tsunami by giving them

financial assistance on exorbitant interest rates;

(b) whether such lenders are creating trouble for Government and other authorities to carry on their rehabilitation programmes;

(c) whether they will grab all the help to be given to the poor fishermen and others;

(d) the details of suitable measures taken to prevent such people from continuing their nefarious activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

New Pension Scheme

2228. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill;

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

(c) the names of the States which have given their consent to join the Pension Scheme;

(d) whether the new Pension Scheme is open to all Government employees and voluntarily for the private sector;

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

(f) the salient features of the new Pension Scheme?

Autonomy to Public Sector Banks

2229. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks have been granted more managerial and operational autonomy;

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

(c) whether it would allow Public Sector Banks to hire talent from the universities and business schools directly without seeking Government approval; and

(d) to what extent will Public Sector Banks be able to match the remuneration offered by Private Sector Banks?

New Bank's Branches in Nagaland

2230. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new branches of nationalised banks proposed to be set up in rural areas of Nagaland during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by Government in this direction?

Representation of farmers in pre-budget discussions

2231. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called the farmers organization for the pre-budget discussions;

(b) if so, who are these organizations, what are their strength and credentials; and

(c) if not, why the representatives of 70 per cent of population are left out from the pre-budget discussion?

Missing of Currency Notes in Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Vibhag in Mysore

2232. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are incidents of currency notes missing in

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Vibhag in Mysore;

(b) what has been the proposal of the case where currency notes went missing during transit from Mysore to Thiruvananthapuram;

(c) the persons responsible for the procedural lapses and poor security norms; and

(d) what are the findings of CBI in this regard?

Resettlement of Tsunami affected people

2233. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared loans on liberal terms to people including fishermen in Southern States and two Union Territories hit by Tsunami waves and asked insurance companies to quickly settle their claims for boats and other equipments;

(b) if so, to what extent Government to given assistance have these people who have suffered great loss to build their houses and make them fully comfortable;

(c) what is the total number of people that have been affected; and

(d) how many of them have been fully resettled?

Sanction of loans for PMRY Schemes

2234. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases processed by the State Government and forwarded to

the Central Government for Bank loans on PMRY schemes and allied schemes during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the number of cases finalized for sanction of Bank loans and the number actually getting disbursements during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise;

(c) what are the reasons that the progress in this respect is not up to the mark; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

PAN mandatory for purchasing credit cards

2235. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has issued a notification making PAN mandatory for buying a credit card, making investments in mutual funds, shares, bonds, debentures, etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this move; and

(c) what would be the position of minors who are not Income Tax-payers and are not having PAN and wish to buy credit card, etc.?

Installation of ATMs by Banks

2236. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) have proved useful and economical to Banks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not installing ATMs by Nationalised Banks in every city specially NCT of Delhi; and

(c) what are the numbers of ATMs being

installed during the next one year by various banks in NCT of Delhi, area-wise?

Draft facility for RRBs

†2237. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders for issuance of demand drafts by the Regional Rural Banks payable at the branches of sponsor banks;

(b) if so, whether the sponsor banks have enforced such orders; and

(c) if not, by when Government would ensure draft facility to be used by the Regional Rural Banks for payment at the branches of sponsor banks?

Appointment of Officers from sponsor banks in RRBs

†2238. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the posts on which officers from the sponsor banks are appointed in the Regional Rural Banks together with the period after which sponsor bank staff cannot be appointed in these banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the expenditure incurred on the salaries and allowances of staff deputed in these banks by the sponsor banks is being borne by the Regional Rural Banks and not by the sponsor banks; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Reforms in banking sector

2239. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to constitute

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

an Expert Committee to make recommendations regarding reforms in banking sector to make Nationalised Banks compete with private sector banks;

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

Branches of RRBs in the country

2240. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Regional Rural Banks functioning at present in the country particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh along with their locations;

(b) the details of the loan facilities granted by each bank to all the farmers, artisans, small scale industries and other needy businessmen of the country during the last three years, State-wise, Bank-wise, and Category-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up more new branches of banks in rural areas of the country, if so, the details thereof?

Wanchoo Committee Report on black money

†2241. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per report of Wanchoo Committee, the generation of black money in India works out 55 per cent of Gross Domestic Product;

(b) if so, what is Government's proposal to deal with this problem; and

(c) the details thereof?

Raising of funds by State Governments from open market

2242. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments have sought permission to raise funds from open market borrowings and bonds/debentures etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Projects with the assistance of WB/ADB in Karnataka

2243. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank in the State of Karnataka;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided by these institutions, project-wise; and

(c) whether some projects are moving at a slow pace and if so, the steps being taken to accelerate the work of these projects?

Measures to curtail subsidies

2244. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that subsidies on goods and services have proliferated to Rs. 1,15,000 crores a year which roughly comes to Rs. 1,000 for every person in India;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out whether such subsidies percolate to the poorest sections of the population,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

or the beneficiaries are comparatively financially better-off sections; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the containment and gradual reduction of these subsidies in the coming years?

Performance of Kisan Credit Card schemes

2245. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the performance so far of the Kisan Credit Card schemes and the extent of its acceptance by farmers;

(b) what is the credit limit and the rate of interest under the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme is available throughout the country and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government are considering any proposal to extend it to all parts of the country and if so, by when?

VAT monitoring committees in States

2246. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would set up VAT monitoring committees in every State and Union Territory to ensure that genuine invoices are raised to completely stop evasion of payment of VAT in any form; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Acquisition of shareholding in foreign banks

2247. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks are permitted to acquire wholly or acquire majority shareholding in foreign banks overseas; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the number of such acquisitions with details of outgo and anticipated return of foreign exchange thereon?

Externally aided projects for Tripura

2248. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tripura has forwarded a number of projects for financial grants under 'Externally Aided Projects' category;

(b) if so, the details of these projects; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Central Government for the sanction of externally aided projects in the case of Tripura forwarded?

Withdrawal of benefit to exporters under IT Act

2249. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporters were being given benefit under Section 80 HHC of Income-Tax Act while assessing the Income tax;

(b) if so, whether Government have withdrawn the benefit; and

(c) whether Government are making the recoveries of the amount allowed to the exporters under the aforementioned provision of benefit, if so, how much amount has been recovered up to 31st December, 2004?

Merger of RRBs

2250. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge Regional Rural Banks with their sponsoring Banks;

(b) whether a Bankers Committee constituted last year by Government had recommended to set up six zonal level Regional Rural Banks by consolidating present 196 Regional Rural Banks; and

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

Exemption to citizens of Sikkim from income tax

†2251. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the time of merger of Sikkim with India in 1975 it was committed that citizens of Sikkim would be exempted from the income tax and direct taxes;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to impose income tax and other taxes on the citizens of Sikkim against the said commitment;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum from the State Government of Sikkim;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering the same; and

(e) the details of the memorandum received from Sikkim?

On Line Tax Assessment System

†2252. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government at the beginning of this financial year have introduced an On Line Tax Assessment System (OLTAS) for the benefit of tax-payers;

(b) if so, whether Government have received complaints to the effect that the said system has proved faulty and tax challans submitted by lakhs of tax-payers under the system have not been registered in the accounts of tax-payers;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken against the persons found guilty in the said enquiry?

Cut in incentives to LIC field staff

2253. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefits like incentive, reimbursement of expenses and conveyance allowance of LIC field staff are being curtailed;

(b) whether the market share of LIC has come down due to the unrest among the field staff;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the decision of curtailment of benefits due to the field staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

FDI in Public Sector Banks

†2254. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are prepared to permit Foreign Direct Investment in the Public Sector Banks;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, names of those banks which are ready to accept such investment; and

(c) the names of such banks of the public sector which would be clubbed together for purpose of the said investment?

Targets of Banks under SGSY

2255. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks are required to finance under Swarna Jayanti Gram Surojagar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the names of those banks which have not met their target in the years 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether there are some banks and their branches which have not financed under SGSY in the year 2004-05;

(d) if so, the names of these banks and their branches;

(e) whether Government propose to take any action against these defaulting banks and their officers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Status of Gujarat Urban Reform Project

2256. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Gujarat Urban Reform Project sent to the World Bank for their approval;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Economic Affairs

recommended to release project preparation facilities amounting to Rs. 450 lacs;

(c) whether the Country Director of the World Bank conveyed to the State Government of Gujarat, of any World Bank Mission visiting Gujarat in January, 2005; and

(d) if so, the outcome of Mission's visit to Gujarat and the status of the Project?

Payment to World Bank for remuneration to Secretaries

2257. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has been paid for travel, hospitality and remuneration/honorarium to Secretaries to Government of India from scientific departments while above officials visited abroad as a consultant to World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of such payments including payment granted towards travel, hospitality, remuneration/honorarium paid to above officials for last three years, year-wise, category-wise and official-wise; and

(c) the details including country visited, duration of visit and purpose of visit of above official, while working as a consultant to World Bank, for last three years, year-wise, category-wise and official-wise?

Levy on Income tax on sale proceeds under DEPB

2258. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the P.M. has instructed the concerned Ministry not to levy income tax on sale proceeds under the Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his ministry would rectify the anomalies in the Income-tax act to ensure the prospective application of this levy; and

(d) if so, the details of the IT Slab and its multiple effects upon the exporters?

Circulation of fake currency notes

†2259. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons apprehended alongwith fake currency during the last two years and the amount of these notes recovered from them;

(b) whether the notes include the fake currency notes sent from Pakistan;

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government in this direction after having failed to check the circulation of fake currency notes despite various efforts; and

(d) what punishment is given to the persons involved in printing and circulation of fake currency notes?

Provision of computer facility to Panchayats

†2260. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide computer operated by car battery to every Panchayat with a view to connect the same with Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of plan Central Government are having to fulfil the requirement of power therefor?

Autonomy to Panchayats

2261. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchayats in India have not been given full functional, financial and administrative autonomy;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the details of States/UTs which have not devolved any fund to the PRIs; and

(d) what steps Government propose to initiate to enable Panchayats to function as institution of self Government?

Task Force on Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Panchayati Raj

2262. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Task Force on bringing all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) whether Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Task Force;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of Panchayati Raj Institution

2263. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Panchayati Raj Institution since it came into existence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts taken to improve its working; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Kerosene quota to States

†2264. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the quota for kerosene oil to all the States is determined by Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have recently curtailed the said quota of several States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the States, whose quota has been curtailed have requested the Central Government to increase the same; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Collaboration on Coal gasification

2265. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU was signed with Russian Skochinsky Institute of Mines for technical collaboration to turn coal into gas;

(b) if so, what are the coal-mines in

different States which will be used for gasification technology;

(c) what quantum of gas is expected to be achieved;

(d) by when the gas from coal is likely to be available for the use of the country; and

(e) whether necessary infrastructure is available for the process?

Gas reserves in Rajasthan

†2266. SHRI LALIT KISHORE
CHATURVEDI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

(a) whether gas reserves have been found in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan, if so, to what extent;

(b) what action is being taken for the survey of said deposits;

(c) the manner in which this gas is planned to be utilized;

(d) whether Pakistan is getting advantage indirectly from these gas reserves in Rajasthan due to indifferent attitude of the Central Government; and

(e) what is Government's policy in this regard?

Subsidy on domestic LPG

2267. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide subsidy to private sector Reliance Industries Limited and gas firm GAIL for sale of LPG to domestic households;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether this offer of subsidy is subject to Government retaining the power to fix maximum retail price of LPG at par with the PSU oil companies; and

(c) whether Reliance Industries and GAIL will also be directed to allot LPG outlets for the weaker sections of the society as is being done by PSU oil companies?

IOC's investments abroad

2268. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC is set to become a single larger investor abroad by developing a gas block in the gigantic South Pars Offshore Fields along with Petroparas of Iran to produce liquefied natural gas;

(b) what is the expected amount to be invested for the purpose; and

(c) by when the Petro-chemical complex is expected to function?

Long term contracts for import of crude

2269. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a revised strategy has been worked out to seek long term contracts, beyond one year as per the present practice, for import of crude oil, to ensure security of supplies at steady prices, in the backdrop of demand explosion in Asia, particularly in China and India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the result of discussions held, if any, with the leading oil suppliers in the Middle-East and elsewhere?

Retail outlets in foreign countries

†2270. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up its retail outlets in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target fixed with regard to setting up of retail outlets in foreign countries?

Review of subsidies in Oil and Gas Sectors

2271. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the subsidies in Oil and Gas sectors as part of deregulation process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

GAIL's plan to revive Dabhol Power Plant

2272. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has made proposals to invest and revive the Dabhol Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details of this investment;

(c) whether GAIL has any experience in this kind of power generation;

(d) to what extent would GAIL be moving away from its core competence by going in for a project like Dabhol Power Plant;

(e) whether there was any outside pressure on GAIL to take over this project; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in LPG demand

†2273. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand
for LPG has been rising in the country
continuously;

(b) if so, the assessment with regard to
its average annual growth rate during the
last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that this demand
is likely to come down in the year
2004-05;

(d) if so, the estimated growth rate of
the demand; and

(e) the reasons for the decrease in the
demand?

**Utilisation of oil industry
development cess**

†2274. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of
Rs. 51,000 crore recovered in the form of
oil industry development cess is deposited
with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy adopted for utilisation of
the cess amount by Government; and

(d) the amount allocated from this fund
for oil industry development during the
year 2003-04?

**Proposals for supply of Natural Gas to
Maharashtra**

2275. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals of the State
Government of Maharashtra for supply of
additional Natural Gas for Maharashtra are
pending with the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of these
proposals?

**MoU between IOC and OIL for
overseas ventures**

2276. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC and OIL
have signed MoU to jointly pursue business
opportunities for exploration and production
of oil and gas in overseas ventures;

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

(c) whether OIL-IOC have any plan to
acquire any companies abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Dilution of Government equity in
ONGC**

2277. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will
the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan
to divest 5 per cent of its stake in ONGC
during the fiscal year;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the present market capitalisation of the ONGC; and

(c) in what manner the proposed 5 per cent money is going to be used by ONGC?

National Bio-fuel Centre

2278. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Petroleum Conservation Research Association has recently started National Bio-fuel Centre;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the National Bio-fuel Centre;

(c) the details of Government's plan to produce bio-fuel directly or indirectly in the country at the end of the current plan; and

(d) what action plan does it have for generating more and more bio-fuel?

Revision in prices of petroleum products

2279. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies have asked Government to revise petrol and diesel prices following the levy of additional road cess and changes in excise duty structure in the budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new prices will be effective from 1st April, 2005?

Review of policy of supply of Ethanol blended petrol

2280. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for mandatory blending of ethanol in petrol, aimed at cutting the country's crude oil import dependence, introduced in some identified States, suffered a set back during 2003-04 due to decline in sugar production and non-availability of molasses in sufficient quantity to support the programme;

(b) if so, the results of review of the programme undertaken, if any; and

(c) the fresh initiative taken/being taken to ensure sustained supply of ethanol, at reasonable prices so as to maintain the supply of ethanol-blended petrol in the identified States and subsequently in other parts of the country as well?

Sharing of profit of petroleum

2281. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that profit of petroleum earned by the Centre from river basin exploration is shared in the ratio of 50:50 between the Centre and the States;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the profit ratio of States in view of the financial crunch faced by the States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the matter of revision of profit ratio is under consideration; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken on the matter?

Shortage of supply of LPG in the Metros

2282. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a

shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders to the public in the metro cities of the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the supply position;

(c) whether it is also a fact that public have to wait for more than a month to get refill cylinders;

(d) what is the reason for this shortage;

(e) whether the LPG cylinders are diverted to commercial purpose causing hardships to the common people; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the supply?

Exploration of oil in Uttar Pradesh

†2283. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities of underground Natural Oil in Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Azamgarh districts in eastern parts of UP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has conducted surveys in such areas and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government are making plan to start oil exploration work after conducting a survey of these areas and if so, the details of such schemes?

LPG as an auto fuel

†2284. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether Government have conducted any experiment to use LPG in vehicles as an alternative of petrol;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that LPG can be used as fuel in vehicles; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to make its use in vehicles legal?

Hike in price of Gas

2285. DR. A.K. PATEL
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Group of Ministers in respect of Gas Price hike; and

(b) by when the Central Government will decide on this matter?

Operations of Duty free shops of ITDC at airports

2286. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making an effort to clean up the operations of all its duty free shops run by ITDC at airports and other places in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are also examining on how to curb unnecessary imports of foreign items;

(c) what steps are proposed to carefully study the various lobbies operating to ensure that ITDC makes huge purchases of luxury items and consumable goods; and

(d) the steps proposed to examine all such activities of ITDC?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of tourist spots

2287. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that in spite of increasing foreign exchange from tourism there is no commendable improvement in the tourism spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount spent for improvement of facilities at various tourist spots in the country?

Promotion of eco-tourism

2288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is fast growing in the world;

(b) if so, what action plan the Ministry of tourism have to promote eco-tourism in India;

(c) whether any States/areas/spots have been identified by the Ministry to provide eco-tourism in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of States/areas/spots so identified?

Rebuilding of tourism resorts in the eastern coast

2289. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any attempt to assess the damage caused by Tsunami calamity to tourism infrastructure in the eastern coastline of India;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any crash-programme for re-building the tourism resorts in the eastern coast damaged by Tsunami waves;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise a part of the Tsunami relief fund/aid for re-building the tourism infrastructure along with affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Talks with representatives of agricultural sector

†2290. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited and held talks with representatives of agricultural sector to ascertain their point of view regarding the budget 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the representatives have suggested that provisions should be made in the budget for increasing employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and the action being taken for the same?

Development of Chitradurga Fort area

2291. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has received any proposal from the State Government of Karnataka to develop Chitradurga Fort area under Destination Development Scheme;

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

(c) by when the necessary approval is likely to be given to the said project?

Reduction in allocation of budget

2292. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocations of her Ministry have been slashed from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 400 crore in the current financial year;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain instances of disproportionate expenditure were found during the months of Nov. and Dec. last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how the same have been reconciled?

Development of Tourist spots in Tamil Nadu

2293. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps are being taken for the last two years to develop the tourist spots in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism potentiality of Tamil Nadu at National and International level during the current financial year?

Shortage of premium brands at duty free shops of ITDC

2294. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of premium Scotch whisky at the duty free shops and ITDC has decided to switch over to a tender process, instead of purchase order to manufacturers, for buying fresh stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for changes in purchase process; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure that the whisky procured through lowest bidder is not adulterated?

Measures to boost tourism in tribal areas

‡2295. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being implemented to boost tourism in the tribal dominated areas replete with natural beauty and wild life and National Parks of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the assistance being provided by the Centre to boost tourism in the tribal areas; and

(d) the details of assistance provided during the last three years to the private sector for the tourism development State-wise and institution-wise?

Setting up of budget hotels

2296. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Budget hotels proposed to be set up by Government in co-operation with private sector in the country, during the current financial year;

(b) the number of private operators who have come forward to set up Budget hotels; and

(c) what are the incentives that are given by Government for encouraging private operators to set up Budget hotels?

Construction of ropeways in hilly areas

2297. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage the construction of rope ways

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in the hilly areas of the country in order to minimise the money and time to be spent on the construction of roads there;

(b) if so, the percentage of population using the rope ways constructed in the hilly States; and

(c) the details of the rope ways to be constructed in the hilly States of the country during the present plan period, State-wise?

Schemes for development of tourism in Uttaranchal

2298. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes submitted to the Central Government by the State Government of Uttaranchal for tourism development;

(b) whether all such schemes have been approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

Dwindling tourist traffic in States

2299. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the dwindling tourist traffic in different States, especially the bird and wild life sanctuaries and National Parks in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, which particular tourist spots in different States have come to adverse notice over the last three years on the National Tourism Radar, indicating the main tourist attractions of each tourist resort and how far the tourist traffic has dwindled during 2002-2003, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

Development of Pilgrim Centres as tourist attractions'

2300. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any list of pilgrim Centres as prime tourist attractions in the country;

(b) the number of temples identified as major tourist attractions in Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to develop the tourist infrastructure of the Pilgrim Centres in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Revenue through tourism industry

†2301. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue realised through the tourism industry in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) to what extent, it is less or more, in comparison to the revenue realised during the last ten years; and

(c) the action plan formulated by Government to boost the revenue through tourism industry in the current year?

Strategy for boosting tourism in post Tsunami crisis

2302. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have worked out a new strategy to boost tourism in post Tsunami crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to engage a reputed market research agency to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

assess our performance and scope for improvement in tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Violation of Indus Water Treaty

2303. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI: N.P. DURGA:
SHRI NAND KISHORE
YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the second round of Secretary level talks on Baglihar with Pakistan have broken down;

(b) what are the technical issues raised by Pakistan during the above meeting;

(c) whether it is a fact that India is really following the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and preparing design for the above 450 mw project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Diversion of funds for construction of irrigation projects

2304. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BALAPTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN
PANY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have diverted the funds provided to them by the Central Government for the construction of irrigation projects to some other heads;

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

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw the funds allocated to such States for construction of irrigation projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Irrigation Projects

2305. MS. PRAMILA
BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked for Rs. 45,000 crores for irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details of the projects that would be taken up with these funds; and

(c) the details of such projects falling in Orissa indicating the time-frame within which these would be taken up and completed?

Irrigation projects in Chhattisgarh

†2306. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects sanctioned by Government of Chhattisgarh in the year 2004-05, district-wise;

(b) the total amount for which provision has been made for the year 2004-05 for Chhattisgarh State along with the amount allotted as on date;

(c) the number of schemes pending with the Government for sanction along with the names of districts of Chhattisgarh to which they belong; and

(d) by when these will be sanctioned and by when the amount will be provided?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in salinity of soil by Tsunami waves

2307. DR. M.A. M. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent Tsunami waves have increased the salinity of soil of several areas in different States who suffered due to Tsunami;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

Information system for water related data

2308. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the National Water Resource Policy 2002, Government have proposed to establish an information system for water related data at State/ National level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether progress in this regard is satisfactory; and

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

Shortage of water reservoirs

†2309. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an acute shortage of water reservoirs like pools, ponds, baoris is being observed in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this

shortage has reached to 38 per cent just during last one decade;

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

(d) whether Government have assessed its likely impact on the availability of water in the country due to this shortage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Prospects of water crisis

2310. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of
WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge water crisis is looming large over the country in the coming five-six years; and

(b) if so, what advance preparations has been made by Government to fight against this huge danger?

Project for rejuvenation of water bodies

2311. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal/project for rejuvenation of water bodies;

(b) if so, details thereof and also the grant allotted to States for the above purpose State-wise, category-wise as on date;

(c) whether any State Governments submitted proposals for renovation/ rejuvenation of water bodies;

(d) if so, details including the proposal submitted, grant requested, State-wise as on today; and

(e) what are the details of criteria adopted for allotting fund to various States for rejuvenating water bodies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Irrigation projects in Chhattisgarh

†2312. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending irrigation projects in Chhattisgarh which need Central assistance;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementation of these projects;

(c) what are the details of the steps being taken for speedy implementation of such projects;

(d) whether there has been any escalation in cost of projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Grants for irrigation projects under AIBP

2313. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering its decision for providing grants of Rs. 707 crores to Maharashtra Government for 31 irrigation projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project;

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

(c) whether the Central Government has received any correspondence from the State Government of Karnataka for the modification in Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Project; and

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

Proposals from Andhra Pradesh Pending with CWC

2314. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of proposals from the State of Andhra Pradesh pending with the Central Water Commission;

(b) since when these projects are pending with the Commission; and

(c) by when these projects will be cleared?

Inclusion of river erosion in Natural Calamity Management Act

2315. SHRIMATISYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of river erosion is yet to be included in the National Calamity Management Act, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the erosion by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries has turned into a serious problem for Assam;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has still not given due attention to the problem and even it was not included in the list of calamities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the steps being taken to control the erosion of river Brahmaputra and its tributaries?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th March, 2005
Phalguna 25, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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