

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 22, 2003/Asadha 31, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total Number of Questions—140

Splitting of Air India

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to split or halve Air India; and

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

Deployment of ground staff by private airlines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop private airlines from deploying their own ground staff for customer service citing security considerations;

(b) if so, whether this would adversely affect the comparatively better service provided by private airlines; and

(c) whether there have been any glaring cases of violation of security by these private airlines which necessitated this action since they commenced operation about a decade back?

Subletting of parking contract at Ahmedabad airport

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

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has awarded parking contract to a private firm at Ahmedabad airport;

(b) if so, what is the name of the contractor to whom the contract was awarded recently with the terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether the contractor has sublet the contract of parking to some other person who is charging exorbitantly from car owners; and

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

Disruption of Alliance Air's schedule

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

(a) whether Alliance Air's schedule has been disrupted after a number of its aircraft were seconded for the Prime Minister and other VIPs;

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

(c) whether Indian Airlines has been asked to fly on these routes?

Expansion and modernisation of Kanpur airport

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

(a) the details of the proposals that are under consideration of the Government to expand and modernise Kanpur airport;

(b) whether the facilities at the airport are likely to be provided to facilitate the operation of daily flight services from Kanpur-Delhi and *vice versa*; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Bilateral aviation agreements

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have concluded a series of bilateral aviation agreements with no major advantage to the Indian side while foreign carriers have walked away with substantial benefits; and

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

Multiple-laning of air corridors

145. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Airports Authority of India has introduced multiple-laning of air corridors passing over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force have expressed reservations on the new routes because of the AIF bases

spread across the country, especially in the northern and eastern regions; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to adequately address the security concerns of the IAF?

Removal of anomalies in time table of IA and Alliance Air

146. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to remove anomalies in time table of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flights as regards connectivity from Delhi to different stations of Assam like Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tejpur and others *via* Guwahati; and

(b) if so, whether Cd7891 would be extended upto Jorhat and Dibrugarh from Guwahati?

Discount on domestic fares by AI

147. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent move by Air India to reduce the airfares on domestic flights is only for a short time;

(b) if so, for what period this reduction in airfare would be valid; and

(c) whether Air India would be able to sustain the expenses incurred on domestic flights keeping in view the heavy losses it has already incurred in the past?

Concessional airfares to holiday travellers

148. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines, Air alliance and Air India announced concessional air fares for holiday travellers this year;

(b) if so, the details of the concessions and the fares offered; and

(c) how far (giving percentage) they were successful in capturing/cornering the holiday-air-travel fares collections *vis-a-vis* private air operators?

Phasing out of Boeing aircrafts

149. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI;
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to sell a Boeing B747-200 aircrafts which has been grounded since January;

(b) if so, whether the other two B747-200s owned by the airline would also be phased out;

(c) if so, what is the total number of aircrafts that are being phased out by Air India;

(d) whether new aircrafts have been obtained in their place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Fresh legislation in lieu of AAI Amendment Bill 2000

150. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRIP. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had withdrawn the Airports Authority of India Bill, 2000 which was pending in Parliament;

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

(c) whether a fresh legislation is likely to be brought forward;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the airports likely to be upgraded in the country as part of Government's efforts to create world-class civil aviation infrastructure?

Air India's entry in domestic price war

151. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined domestic price war; and

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

Expansion of airports in the north east

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

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for construction, expansion or augmentation of airports in the north-east;

(b) if so, the details of the projects contemplated thereunder and cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far for implementation thereof?

Hindi magazines at airport lounge

†153. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Hindi magazines and newspapers *vis-a-vis* English newspapers and magazines made available in airport lounge and on board;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the acute shortage of the Hindi magazines these are not available to the passengers very often;

(c) whether the official language is being neglected due to this practice; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by Government to make Hindi magazines and newspapers available in adequate number?

Direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London

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

(a) whether British Airways plans to start direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to introduce more direct services to Europe and United States to attract tourists?

Bangalore Airport Project

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

(a) whether Government have initiated moves for amendment of Airports Authority of India Act during the current Monsoon session of Parliament having cleared the Green-field International Airport at Devanahalli (Bangalore);

(b) whether a new hassle has cropped up with HAL/IAF and the AAI is involved in a row over the control of civilian air traffic over Bangalore;

(c) whether the airspace over Bangalore for use of civilian aircrafts is still under the control of HAL/IAF; and

(d) if so, how soon Government are going to sort out this problem and vest the rights of airtraffic control in the AAI?

Bids for metro airports

156. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the airports proposed to be privatized;

(b) whether Foreign Airlines, such as Qatar Air, has been permitted to bid for Metro Airports in our country;

(c) if so, the names of other airlines which are permitted; and

(d) whether this will infringe upon our security system?

Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports

157. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been estimated that modernisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports would require an investment of Rs. 1864 crores and Rs. 2030 crores, respectively;

(b) whether Government have apprehensions over the private sector investing in such projects because of negative returns;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India is keen to secure a Government grant as it needs compensation for losses when the principal earning assets in Mumbai and Delhi are hived off; and

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

Losses due to non-checking of aircrafts

158. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has suffered huge losses during the last few years due to delay in completion of various checks of aircrafts in the engineering bases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed/propose to fix responsibility for such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Route rationalisation of Air India and Indian Airlines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the route rationalisation proposal of Air India and Indian Airlines has been shelved; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Sharing of air travel tax

160. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for parting a part of foreign travel tax and internal air travel tax to fund the new international airport coming up at Shamshabad;

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

(c) whether the AAI has taken any decision on this request; and

(d) if not, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

Extension of open sky policy

161. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to extend the open sky policy for another two years during the peak tourist season October-March;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what impact it would have on tourism in India in the coming years?

Impact of fare review on AI's revenue

162. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AI has announced special domestic sector fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far it has helped to net additional revenue since its implementation and whether any other Airline has also made similar concession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Losses suffered by Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam airports

163. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam airports in Andhra Pradesh are consistently incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase scheduled operations of Indian Airlines to these airports to increase traffic so that these airports are revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pilots' strike

164. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots of Air India went on strike during April, 2003;

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

(c) the details of the agreement reached with them in calling off their week-long strike; and

(d) the salaries and perks being paid to pilots and crew members per month, including other facilities available to them?

Financial assistance for Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent any proposal for financial assistance from the international agencies for the development projects of the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of each proposal; and

(d) the necessary action taken or being taken by the Central Government on the said proposals?

Shortage of coins

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of coins in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to import coins keeping in view the acute shortage of coins in the country;

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

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to cast coins in the country itself?

Cases pending in DRTs

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

(a) the number of cases pending with different DRTs alongwith the total amount involved;

(b) the number of tribunals functioning at present and whether Government will increase their numbers in view of the number of pending cases; and

(c) if so, by when?

Paying back of excise refund by tobacco companies

168. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco companies are required to pay back the excise refund received by them as per past policy which has been revised retrospectively;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) the reasons for policy revision with retrospective effect?

Permanent amnesty scheme

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a permanent amnesty scheme;

(b) if so, what are the features of the permanent amnesty scheme;

(c) whether the new scheme is expected to exist side by side with the stricter tax regime; and

(d) whether under this scheme the tax payer will be asked to pay tax at the rate prevailing at the time the income originated or at the current rate?

Foreign debt

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

(a) whether India's foreign debt has mounted to more than US\$ 105.00 billion presently;

(b) if so, whether this translates into every Indian citizen carrying a foreign debt burden of more than US\$ 100.00 on his head; and

(c) whether Government feel it prudent to pay off a part of the foreign debt out of India's present bulging forex reserve?

Central Government Group Insurance Scheme

† 171. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3315

given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd April, 2003 and state:

(a) by when the specific information required for amending the rates of contribution under Central Government Group Insurance Scheme will be received from different Ministries/Departments;

(b) the dates on which Ministry of Finance has written to different Ministries/Departments for sending this information; and

(c) what is the latest position in this regard?

Increase in foreign exchange reserve

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

(a) whether it is a fact that since liberalisation, rupee has been losing four or five per cent against the dollar every calendar year, but for the first time last year, it gained 1.08 per cent and in the first three and half months of calendar year 2003, it has already gained 1.35 per cent;

(b) whether this has resulted in huge forex reserves with the RBI; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to deal with the excess dollar supply?

Ban on stapling of currency notes

173. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4702 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether PSU banks have demanded the installation of note counting machines in their branches so that instead of stapling,

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

currency notes could be counted as per demands of the customers and then tied with rubber bands; and

(b) if so, the present status of meeting the demands of PSU banks?

Excise waiver on processed poultry feeds

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

(a) whether the poultry industry has been pressing for excise waiver on processed poultry feeds and also for a levy of only 4 per cent under the proposed VAT;

(b) whether the poultry industry contributes more than Rs. 12,000 crores to GNP; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider providing relief considering the low-cost nutritional benefits accruing from poultry products including eggs?

Misuse of exemption of transfer of listed stocks

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

(a) whether there are instances of misuse of the new provision of exemption of transfer of listed stocks, hardly traded, acquired on or after 1st March, 2003 and before 1st March, 2004 from tax;

(b) whether the market operators are looking at companies with illiquid and hardly traded shares, to rump up share prices and then exit after holding period of one year; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

Action against errant companies

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

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has decided to crack down on companies that failed to transfer unclaimed dividends, interest and other amount to investor education and protection fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against companies for violation of Government rules, and if so, the names of the companies and action taken against them?

Electronic refund of excess tax deductions

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

(a) whether Income-tax department is contemplating a move to refund excess tax deductions electronically into the bank accounts of tax payees;

(b) if so, whether the electronic transfer of excess deduction is likely to begin from this fiscal year; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to make rules simpler for tax payees, and if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of Kargil Tax

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

(a) the total amount collected as Kargil Tax so far; and

(b) the details of utilisation of funds so collected?

Consensus on VAT

179. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has been arrived at in regard to the introduction of Value Added Tax;

(b) if answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, by when the VAT is to be operationalised; and

(c) whether adequate infrastructure has been created at the State level and if not, by when States will be ready with well-equipped implementation machinery?

Guarantees to State undertakings

180. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the State Governments are providing guarantee to the State undertakings without effective scrutiny;

(b) if so, what are the impact on banks' advances to such undertakings on the basis of State guarantees; and

(c) whether it is adding to the Bankers' NPAs (Non-performing Assets)?

Agreement with Chinese banks

181. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese banks

have decided to work closely to support business;

(b) if so, whether to give a fillip to greater investment and trade by domestic companies in China, Indian banks will be looking at entering into counterpart agreement with Chinese banks;

(c) whether business leaders have also requested the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of China to collaborate closely so that there is a synergy in banking policies of the two countries; and

(d) if so, to what extent both India and China have agreed to help the business to flourish in both the countries?

Community-based Universal Health Insurance Scheme

182. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Community-based Universal Health Insurance Scheme announced in the budget speech has since been launched;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) when it was launched and the response of the public to the scheme?

Recommendations of expert committee on currency notes

183.DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the expert committee on increasing the life of Indian notes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NPA's of nationalised banks

† 184. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total NPAs of banks have crossed Rs. one lakh crores;

(b) if so, the total NPAs of the Indian banks as on 30th June, 2003, bank-wise;

(c) the method that is being applied by Government in determining NPAs;

(d) the total NPAs of nationalised banks as on 31st March, 2002; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce NPAs?

Utilisation of Central assistance

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are not able to utilise their Central assistance, loan and calamity relief fund, drought relief, SC and ST assistance because of financial constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that because of the worst financial condition and natural calamities, Orissa is also not able to utilise fund from 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to help these financially weak States?

Restructuring of loans of corporates

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some financial institutions and banks are rescheduling/restructuring the payment of loans by some corporates who have been involved in diversion of funds;

(b) if so, what are the names of the banks and financial institutions; and

(c) what are the names of the groups or corporate bodies who are involved in diversion of funds and are being helped in the above manner?

Recovery of NPAs

187. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the nationalised banks have come down after the Securitisation and Acquisition of Assets Act has come into effect;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs of the nationalised banks as on 31st March, 2002 and 31st March, 2003; and

(c) the NPAs recovered and the amount written off during the year 2002-03 by each of these banks?

Circulation of counterfeit currency

188. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in the circulation of counterfeit Indian currency in the market in the recent past; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trends in revenue collection

189. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trends in revenue collection in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

(b) what is the prorata increase or decrease in respect of each tax?

Reduction in non-plan expenditure

190 SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government have been able to reduce the non-plan expenditure (excluding the expenditure on loan repayment and interest payment); and

(b) what are the details thereof for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

SEBI investigation into share scam

† 191. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enquiry into the recent share scam was conducted by Security and Exchange Board of India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have received any interim report in this case; and

(c) if so, the persons found guilty on the basis of this report and the amount assessed to have been involved in this scam?

External debt position

192. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's outstanding external debt has shot up from \$98.76 billion in March, 2002 to \$104.99 billion in December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this will have a serious impact on the Indian economy;

(c) whether Government are confident that the country's foreign debt position is comfortable and economy is well insulated from possible external sector shocks;

(d) if so, whether the latest status report of the Ministry of Finance has pointed out India's position as alarming; and

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

Administrative control of NCB

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Narcotics Control Bureau is under administrative control of Ministry of Finance because opium is considered as source of earning revenue; and

(b) if so, whether it will be administratively better if NCB is placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal effectively with illicit market, reducing opium addicts and law and order control?

Protection to shareholders in joint ventures

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

(a) whether the interest of Indian

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

promoters, shareholders and lenders are adequately protected in joint ventures as the present exit norms are rather liberal for overseas investors/foreign partners; and

(b) if not, whether any fresh safeguards are being introduced so that Indian partners' interests are not unduly jeopardized?

Fraudulent claims for duty drawback

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of fraudulent claims for duty drawback and the amount involved is on the increase;

(b) whether duty drawback is claimed on account of fake/fictitious exports;

(c) in what manner Government propose to overcome such a menace; and

(d) the details of claimants of such fraudulent claims, which came to light of Government during the last 12 months?

Income tax dues on film artists

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

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax on the famous film artists of the country during the last fiscal year together with their names thereof;

(b) outstanding income tax on each of them separately along with the time since when the same is pending;

(c) what efforts Government are making to recover the income tax; and

(d) what incentives Government have given for timely payment of income tax?

Survey on GDP growth rate

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

(a) whether survey has indicated that the GDP rate has declined in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

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

Transfer of earnings by foreign channels

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

(a) whether the foreign channels broadcasting in India are transferring their earnings to their controlling companies based overseas;

(b) if so, which are the channels and how much of their earnings are being transferred annually; and

(c) what are the provisions under which this is being done?

Scam in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

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

(a) whether a financial scam amounting to over one crore rupees in the Prithviraj Road, Jaipur branch of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has come to the notice of Government;

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

(c) whether any arrests have been made;

(d) what is the present status of the case; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the steps contemplated by Government to prevent such scams in PSU banks of the country?

Entry of public sector banks in capital market

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of common customers losing their capital because of the entry of public sector banks in the capital market; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to save the common customers?

Loan for the development of agriculture

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

(a) what are the details of loans provided by the nationalised banks, private banks and foreign banks during the last three years for the development of agriculture and small scale industries, State-wise, bank-wise;

(b) the percentage of loan out of the total loan disbursed by these banks to agriculture and small scale industries during the said period; and

(c) the details of the norms set by these banks for grant of loan to the agriculture and small scale industries?

Withdrawal of pension plan for senior citizens

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after having announced the pension plan for senior

citizens on the 17th June, 2003 in all prominent national dailies, Government hastily retreated and withdrew it the very next day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme has been abandoned finally; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be announced and formally put in place?

Subsidy on Kerosene and LPG

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Finance on the issue of the period of granting subsidy on Kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has been resolved or by when it is likely to be resolved?

Medium term fiscal revamp policy for States

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

(a) whether any measures have been taken to improve the financial position of State Governments under medium term fiscal revamp policy (MTFRP); and

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

Tax rebate for Kargil martyrs

†205. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions for giving rebate in paying various central taxes

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to the widows of Kargil martyrs and also to the widows of the personnel killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance is considering the proposal to give uniform rebate to the families of both the categories of the martyrs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Strike in banking sector

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

(a) the strikes observed in the Banking Sector during the last one year;

(b) the effect on the banking business and losses suffered by banks due to these strikes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring public sector banks at par with the private banks and by when the results of the same will be forthcoming?

Delay in sanctioning loans

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there is delay in getting loans from banks and financial institutions for the projects of companies;

(b) what is the number of complaints received by Government in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that loans are provided to the companies in time?

CRISIL estimates on NPAs of banks

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

(a) whether the rating agencies CRISIL and FITCH have estimated independently that the Non-Performing Assets of public sector banks are actually double the estimates worked out by Indian Banks' Association;

(b) whether according to CRISIL/FITCH estimates, the combined NPAs of public sector banks have now crossed Rs. 1,300,000 crores mark; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has any mechanism in place to assess the extent of NPAs of Banks independently and if so, the details thereof?

Repayment of bilateral debt

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of repaying a part of the bilateral debt of about Rs. 7,500 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to which Government propose to repay their debt; and

(c) the total debt outstanding against these countries; country-wise?

RBI's advice on reduction in subsidies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has advised Government to cut subsidies in sectors like power, railways, water, etc; and to increase infrastructure investment;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government have taken on the advice?

Debt swap scheme for banks

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced debt swap scheme for banks;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to buy back 24 illiquid Government of India securities with a total fund value of Rs. 80 crores from banks and public sector financial institutions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Use of counterfeit credit cards

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

- (a) whether the use of counterfeit credit cards has caused cheating to the banks to the tune of several lakhs in the past few months;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government/nationalised banks have adopted any policy to check such frauds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Abolition of posts in Central Government offices

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission had identified 42,000 posts for abolition in the offices of Central

Government while Government have identified only 23,900 posts and if so, the reasons for different figures in both the cases; and

- (b) how many posts have since been abolished and by when the entire identified posts would be abolished?

Transfer of bilateral assistance

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to stop taking bilateral aid and pre-pay part of its bilateral debt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how far it would reduce the interest burden; and
- (d) whether Government also propose to transfer this bilateral assistance to other developing countries which need greater official development assistance aid and if so, the details thereof?

Pending cases of US-64 certificates

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

- (a) whether Government have made full and final payment of cash values or issued 6.75 Government bonds in lieu of all the US-64 certificates;
- (b) if so, when the last payment was made;
- (c) whether any claim is still pending with the UTI; and
- (d) if so, by when the same is likely to be disposed?

Structural adjustment loan to States

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa, among others, has been sanctioned World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan from the Central Government, if so, the details of the loan so sanctioned;

(b) the details of other States which have been given this loan; and

(c) the specific works that would be carried out with this loan and conditions, if any, attached to this?

Funds from Devolution Tax to M.P.

†217. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by 11th Finance Commission about the funds Madhya Pradesh is likely to get from Devolution Tax each year from 2000-2001 to 2003-2004; and

(b) the total amount of less funds Madhya Pradesh has got during the last four years due to non-payment of Devolution Tax as per this assessment?

Unclaimed bank accounts

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

(a) the total amount in different accounts in Nationalised Banks in the country as on 30th June, 2003 which has neither been withdrawn nor claimed for the last many years i.e. the depositors are either dead or missing;

(b) the manner in which such amount is utilised and whether there is any provision to send the information in this regard to the depositors by banks on the address etc.

mentioned by them while opening bank account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in loan disbursement by financial institutions

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp and consistent decline in the quantum of loans disbursed by financial institutions like IDBI, IFCI, SIDBI and ICICI Bank in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and financial institution-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the other hand NPAs of these financial institutions have increased manifold during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to improve the loan disbursements and liquidate the NPAs of these financial institutions?

Repayment of unsecured loan

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

(a) whether presently there is a maximum limit of five years within which an unsecured loan given by banks and financial institutions has to be repaid;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the period upto 10 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Debt-GDP ratio

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

(a) whether according to the United Nations Survey, India has transformed from a moderate to low indebted country with a debt-GDP ratio of 20 per cent; and

(b) whether Government propose to leverage this ratio by raising additional debt to subserve the urgent needs for funds for infrastructure?

Profits from Sudan oilfields

222. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th February, 2003 and state the details of profits earned from Sudan oilfields?:

ONGC's new retail outlets

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

(a) whether Government have given permission to ONGC to open 500 retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the break-up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(c) by when, these are going to become operational?

Domestic production of LNG

224. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic production of LNG would negate the need for import of this gas by 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether Government are revising the demand-supply projections for natural gas; and

(c) whether the domestic production would provide some relief to the consumers by way of reduction in costs for home consumption?

Import of LPG and Kerosene

†225. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG and Kerosene oil is being met by means of import;

(b) if not, the percentage of the demand met by means of import during 2000-2001, 2001-2003 in the country;

(c) whether any concrete step has been taken by Government to reduce the dependence on import for meeting such demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the country is likely to become self-sufficient in this field?

LPG consumers

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

(a) the percentage of total population in the country consuming LPG;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase the consumption of LPG in environmentally sensitive States like Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir etc. in order to save forests in these States; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Commercial appraisal of discoveries made in KG basin

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

(a) whether requisite appraisal of hydrocarbon discoveries made in the Krishna Godavari basin recently has been made to establish their commercial viability; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rejection of allotments by relatives of Kargil martyrs

228. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether allotment of petrol pumps, LPG and kerosene depots has been made to all near and dear ones of Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, the details of allotments made to relatives of Kargil martyrs till date;

(c) whether any allotments were rejected or turned down by their relatives;

(d) if so, the numbers thereof; and

(e) what were the reasons for the rejection of the allotments?

Purchase of petroleum products from private companies

†229. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum

Corporation Ltd. had purchased petroleum products from oil companies in the private sector in recent years;

(b) if so, the details of petroleum products purchased by the above companies from the private sector oil companies in India during the last three years, together with the year-wise quantity of such petroleum products purchased; and

(c) the prices at which these were purchased during each of the above years?

Reduction in prices of petroleum products

230. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether prices of petrol and petroleum products were reduced on May 15, 2003 in tune with the global softening of crude prices;

(b) if so, the percentage of fall in global prices of crude and how far this reduction was proportionate to the reduction in prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products; and

(c) the number of times the prices have since been readjusted and the details thereof?

Crude oil reserve

231. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether a blue-print for creating a buffer stock of crude oil, as an insurance against disruption of supplies in the event of war or natural calamities etc., has been drawn up;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of comparative studies undertaken, if any, on the management of similar stocks maintained by some other countries, like the U.S.A., Japan etc.?

Indo-US cooperation for building oil reserves

232. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India propose to seek US help to build oil reserves to meet contingency requirements like disruption of supplies;
- (b) if so, the details of Indo-US cooperation proposed to be explored; and
- (c) by when the plan for building the reserves will be put in place?

LNG storage terminal at Dahej (Gujarat)

†233. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether first Liquified Natural Gas storage terminal in the country is being established at Dahej (Gujarat);
- (b) if so, what is its capacity;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent on the same;
- (d) the States which will be directly benefited from it; and
- (e) by when it will be ready?

New LPG agencies in Karnataka

234. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol pumps operating in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the number of those outlets are adequate in proportion to the growing population of the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to set-up new LPG agencies/retail outlets in the next few years?

Gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh

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

- (a) the number of gas agencies as on date in Uttar Pradesh and their distribution, district-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to open more gas agencies in the State during 2003 and 2004;
- (c) if so, whether the places for the purpose have been identified; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of new CBM blocks

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

- (a) the names of eight blocks in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal where exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane has started;
- (b) the quantum of gas produced from these blocks during 2002-03, the likely production during 2003-04 and how and where the same is proposed to be utilized;
- (c) whether any new CBM blocks have been identified; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely annual production therefrom?

Barauni Oil Refinery

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

(a) the estimated capacity of Barauni oil refinery situated in Bihar;

(b) whether supply of crude oil to the refinery is as per its installed capacity;

(c) if not, the loss suffered during each of the last three years as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have made any scheme for supply of crude oil as per its capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

New oil refineries in Rajasthan

238. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up oil refineries at any convenient place of Rajasthan for generation of employment in view of new oil and gas reserves found at various places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Gas reserve in Madhya Pradesh

239. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance

Industries Ltd. has struck a huge gas reserve in its onshore CBM exploration block in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof with its commercial production schedules; and

(c) the purposes for which the gas produced from shahdol field is to be utilized and its share in production of power in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra?

Delay in launching of GASOHOL

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

(a) whether Government have extended the deadline for launching the petrol-ethanol mixture GASOHOL all over the country;

(b) whether this is due to severe imbalance among the States in terms of the size of sugar production capacity thereby ensuring regular supply of molasses;

(c) whether inter-State movement of molasses based ethanol will be subject to existing Central excise laws; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to overcome such problems?

Securitisation scheme for petroleum sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalising securitisation scheme for the petroleum sector;

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

(c) whether the scheme is on the lines of the scheme that has been adopted for SEBs; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) in what matter securitisation scheme would help the petroleum sector to improve further?

ADB's offer for TAP project

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

(a) whether India has not shown any interest to an offer by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for laying \$3.5 billion gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal offered by ADB; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the proposal of ADB by the Central Government?

Dealership for rural areas in Assam

243. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of Government for setting up of kerosene, LPG and petrol pump outlets in various districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of places identified in rural areas of Assam for opening kerosene, LPG and petrol pump agencies?

Introduction of small cylinder

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

(a) whether 5 k.g. domestic LPG cylinder has been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps are being taken to make available such LPG cylinders throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Opening of Taj Mahal during night

245. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to keep the Taj Mahal open even during the night;

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

(c) whether the approval of the Supreme Court has since been obtained for this purpose; and

(d) by when the visitors would be allowed to see the Taj Mahal even during night and what arrangements have been made for this purpose?

Funds for eco-friendly tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh

246. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prioritised eco-friendly tourism projects of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government;

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

(c) the funds earmarked for each of these projects of the State?

Protection of historical monuments in Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has been neglected by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture as the grant and assistance given to Orissa from 2000 till today is the lowest in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the funds which were given to the Konark, Puri, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratangiri Nagudi has not been utilised till today, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Brahmamath Mandir, Jagannath Temple, Trilochaneswara, Attaharnal and other places of Jajpur townside has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(d) if so, the project details to protect these historical monuments?

Protection of ancient idols and statues

248. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the steps Government are taking to protect all ancient statues and idols in view of the fact that there has been gradual increase in their smuggling;

(b) whether Government have come up with any plans or strategies to protect these ancient statues and idols from falling into the wrong hands;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Performance of ASI

249. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has shown dissatisfaction with the performance of the

Archaeological Survey of India and has decided to professionalise it;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is pressing for a separate Indian Archaeological Service within the Central Services hierarchy;

(c) whether this proposal has been considered by the Central Government;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons put forward by the Ministry for separate Archaeological Service; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Antiques/articles stolen from National Museum, Delhi

250. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the number of antiques/articles of historical importance stolen from the National Museum, Delhi, during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) how many, out of them, have since been recovered?

Revenue from duty free shops

251. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the year-wise details of amount of funds generated from sale at duty free shops at all international airports throughout the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been an increase or decrease in sale from duty free shops in the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount of funds generated from sales on international flights?

Tourist attractions in Delhi

252. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi offers a rich and multifaceted cultural heritage through its monuments which have become major tourist attractions;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to add more tourist attractions; and

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

World Heritage status to Mahabodhi Temple

†253. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any action plan to develop Bodh Gaya and Matrigaya (Siddhpur-Gujarat) as a major tourist spot; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Mahabodhi Temple of Bodh Gaya has achieved World Heritage status; if so, when; and

(c) the names of other tourist spots in the country which have achieved World Heritage status and the names of other tourist spots for which Government are trying to achieve World Heritage status?

Construction of Taj Heritage Project

†254. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

construction of Taj Heritage Project was started without any necessary Governmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of Government departments from whom the clearance was necessary for the construction; and

(c) the names of the departments from whom clearance was obtained along with the total costs of the project and the amount spent, so far?

Protection and development of religious places in Uttaranchal

†255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for protection and development of various religious places, temples etc. of Uttaranchal and also for expansion of facilities for tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Package for Gandhi Darshan

†256. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared a national level unique package for Gandhi Darshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this package is likely to be implemented?

Constitution of trusts for shrines

257. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the outcome of the State Tourism Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on May 13, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken towards constitution of trusts for the management of shrines in the country similar to what exists for Vaishno Devi Shrine?

License to photographers in Agra

258. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 639 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May 2003 and state:

(a) whether a large number of Photographer-workers of Agra had requested the ASI to issue them licenses under the revised guidelines;

(b) whether these persons were having licenses under the old policy also;

(c) if so, whether they have been issued licenses; and

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

World Bank aided projects of Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) what is the present status of the World Bank aided Hydrology Project, A.P. Irrigation Project III, and A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the projects have been completed; and

(c) if not, by when they are likely to be completed?

Requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of water

260. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the WHO and UNICEF study water supply and sanitation in India would outstrip by 31 per cent by the middle of the century;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to that study, per capita annual requirement of water would be 1422 billion cubic metres and availability of water would be only 1086 billion cubic metres; and

(c) if so, in what manner, the Ministry of Water Resources is thinking of matching the availability and utilisation of water for human consumption?

Progress of rain water harvesting schemes

261. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of rain harvesting schemes which are being vigorously implemented in various metros of the country;

(b) the number of cities which have actually implemented the scheme *in toto*;

(c) whether Government are giving any incentives to various colonies which go in for rain harvesting programme; and

(d) what actual benefits have taken place through this programme?

**Construction work at Chitravathi
Project in Karnataka**

262. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team from the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought "urgent intervention" by the Central Government to stop further construction works at the Chitravathi Project in Karnataka; and

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

**Expenditure on repair of weak
embankments in Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Orissa has sent a project report of Rs. 12.89 billion to the Central Government for repair of the weak embankments in the State;

(b) whether it includes expenditure on repairing of embankments, coastal project and proper water drainage; and

(c) whether World Bank has provided any assistance for this purpose; if so, the details thereof?

**Proposals for new irrigation projects
in Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has sent 10 new irrigation project proposals tentatively

costing Rs. 1242 crores to the Central Government;

(b) whether these new projects will be located in the Western Orissa districts and will irrigate vast areas in the drought-hit districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sambalpur etc.; and

(c) the present status of the projects?

**Resettlement of drought prone
farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

265. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to intervene to resolve issues between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka regarding the storage capacity increase in the Jurala project across the Krishna river and the execution of certain works on the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) which would ensure increased inflows to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the action proposed to assist the drought-prone farmers of Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh for increasing the project storage capacity as the Andhra Pradesh Government is ready to pay towards rehabilitation/resettlement of the people in areas that would be submerged following increased storage; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure amicable settlement in the matter?

Dams on rivers flowing from Nepal

†266. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of Indo-Nepal dialogue regarding construction of dams on the rivers flowing from Nepal into Northern Bihar for controlling floods;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any dialogue in this regard was held during the visit of the Nepali Prime Minister to India;

(c) whether any assurance was given by the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the status of the progress made in the light of the dialogue and the assurances given?

Drinking water to all by 2004

267. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1372 given in the Rajya Sabha on March 4, 2003 and state the steps being taken to achieve the target of covering all rural habitations with drinking water supply by 2004 as proposed by Government?

Meeting on Paragodu and Upper Tunga

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

(a) whether a meeting was convened by Chairman of Central Water Commission in the last week of June, 2003 to sort out controversial issues between States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on projects like Paragodu and Upper Tunga;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether another meeting is proposed in the near future; and

(d) if so, when it would be held?

New Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka will have severe adverse impact on irrigation system in four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Kurnool, Ananapur, Cuddapah and Mahabubnagar; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would intervene and instruct Karnataka Government to keep in view the interests of farmers of above four districts of Andhra Pradesh?

Contaminated underground water

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground water in several States has become contaminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government to tackle this serious situation?

Centrally-sponsored schemes for water resources

†271. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented in the country for providing assistance to State Governments for augmenting water resources and exploitation thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the year-wise amount allocated alongwith the amount released to each State particularly to Jharkhand under each scheme during the last three years till date; and

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

Shortage of water

272. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has identified shortage of water as one of the most worrying problems in the time to come;

(b) if so, what would be the estimated demand of potable water in India during the next five years;

(c) whether there has been an increase in use of water during the last ten years and this demand will increase further during the next decade; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the requirements of people during the next decade?

Exploitation of ground water by farm houses

273. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West Delhi is leading to a sharp fall in the water table in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to prevent the over-exploitation of ground water?

Agreement with China for hydrological data

†274. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 814 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to enter into an agreement with China for exchange of hydrological data of the rivers originating from China on the lines of Brahmaputra river agreement so that possibilities of extraordinarily devastating floods in Sutlej river could be minimised in future;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Water Resources as National Wealth

275. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested that the Central Government should take up development of water resources as national wealth; and

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

Payment of salaries to NPCC employees

†276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of NPCC are not being paid their salaries on time;

(b) if so, whether various workers' unions have submitted memoranda to Government for fulfilling their demands; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the demands and the steps being taken by Government for fulfilling the same?

Objections raised by Ministry of Environment and Forests

277. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decision of Government to link the rivers of India and develop inter-basin transfers of water is being reviewed in view of some serious difficulties likely to be faced and reservation expressed by many State Governments, NGOs and others;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recently expressed serious concerns by giving a long list of 23 objections to the proposal;

(c) the details of the views expressed by various State Governments, the concerned Ministries at the Centre and others; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

Protection of lower riparian States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

278. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharing of river waters had become a major contentious issue among the States in recent times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister had to intervene to sort out the difference between the upper and lower riparian States;

(c) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Andhra Pradesh due to non-cooperation of Karnataka which is in upper reaches of Tungbhabhadra and Pennar in times of distress; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan or suggestion to protect the interest of lower riparian States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu?

WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on water supply and sanitation

279. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on the country's water supply and sanitation, 200 districts in the country have high fluoride concentration in groundwater, spread over 17 States and affecting a population of some 25 million;

(b) whether it is a fact that West Bengal is reported to be at risk owing to the presence of arsenic in groundwater;

(c) whether the report has recommended enactment of groundwater legislation in all the States; and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 16th July, 2003
Asadha 25, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 22, 2003/Asadha 31, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total Number of Questions—140

Splitting of Air India

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to split or halve Air India; and

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

Deployment of ground staff by private airlines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to stop private airlines from deploying their own ground staff for customer service citing security considerations;

(b) if so, whether this would adversely affect the comparatively better service provided by private airlines; and

(c) whether there have been any glaring cases of violation of security by these private airlines which necessitated this action since they commenced operation about a decade back?

Subletting of parking contract at Ahmedabad airport

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

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has awarded parking contract to a private firm at Ahmedabad airport;

(b) if so, what is the name of the contractor to whom the contract was awarded recently with the terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether the contractor has sublet the contract of parking to some other person who is charging exorbitantly from car owners; and

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

Disruption of Alliance Air's schedule

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

(a) whether Alliance Air's schedule has been disrupted after a number of its aircraft were seconded for the Prime Minister and other VIPs;

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

(c) whether Indian Airlines has been asked to fly on these routes?

Expansion and modernisation of Kanpur airport

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

(a) the details of the proposals that are under consideration of the Government to expand and modernise Kanpur airport;

(b) whether the facilities at the airport are likely to be provided to facilitate the operation of daily flight services from Kanpur-Delhi and *vice versa*; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Bilateral aviation agreements

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have concluded a series of bilateral aviation agreements with no major advantage to the Indian side while foreign carriers have walked away with substantial benefits; and

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

Multiple-laning of air corridors

145. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Airports Authority of India has introduced multiple-laning of air corridors passing over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force have expressed reservations on the new routes because of the AIF bases

spread across the country, especially in the northern and eastern regions; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to adequately address the security concerns of the IAF?

Removal of anomalies in time table of IA and Alliance Air

146. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to remove anomalies in time table of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flights as regards connectivity from Delhi to different stations of Assam like Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tejpur and others *via* Guwahati; and

(b) if so, whether Cd7891 would be extended upto Jorhat and Dibrugarh from Guwahati?

Discount on domestic fares by AI

147. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent move by Air India to reduce the airfares on domestic flights is only for a short time;

(b) if so, for what period this reduction in airfare would be valid; and

(c) whether Air India would be able to sustain the expenses incurred on domestic flights keeping in view the heavy losses it has already incurred in the past?

Concessional airfares to holiday travellers

148. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines, Air alliance and Air India announced concessional air fares for holiday travellers this year;

(b) if so, the details of the concessions and the fares offered; and

(c) how far (giving percentage) they were successful in capturing/cornering the holiday-air-travel fares collections *vis-a-vis* private air operators?

Phasing out of Boeing aircrafts

149. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI;
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to sell a Boeing B747-200 aircrafts which has been grounded since January;

(b) if so, whether the other two B747-200s owned by the airline would also be phased out;

(c) if so, what is the total number of aircrafts that are being phased out by Air India;

(d) whether new aircrafts have been obtained in their place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Fresh legislation in lieu of AAI Amendment Bill 2000

150. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had withdrawn the Airports Authority of India Bill, 2000 which was pending in Parliament;

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

(c) whether a fresh legislation is likely to be brought forward;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the airports likely to be upgraded in the country as part of Government's efforts to create world-class civil aviation infrastructure?

Air India's entry in domestic price war

151. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has joined domestic price war; and

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

Expansion of airports in the north east

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

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 300 crore has been allocated for construction, expansion or augmentation of airports in the north-east;

(b) if so, the details of the projects contemplated thereunder and cost thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far for implementation thereof?

Hindi magazines at airport lounge

†153. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Hindi magazines and newspapers *vis-a-vis* English newspapers and magazines made available in airport lounge and on board;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the acute shortage of the Hindi magazines these are not available to the passengers very often;

(c) whether the official language is being neglected due to this practice; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by Government to make Hindi magazines and newspapers available in adequate number?

Direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London

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

(a) whether British Airways plans to start direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to introduce more direct services to Europe and United States to attract tourists?

Bangalore Airport Project

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

(a) whether Government have initiated moves for amendment of Airports Authority of India Act during the current Monsoon session of Parliament having cleared the Green-field International Airport at Devanahalli (Bangalore);

(b) whether a new hassle has cropped up with HAL/IAF and the AAI is involved in a row over the control of civilian air traffic over Bangalore;

(c) whether the airspace over Bangalore for use of civilian aircrafts is still under the control of HAL/IAF; and

(d) if so, how soon Government are going to sort out this problem and vest the rights of airtraffic control in the AAI?

Bids for metro airports

156. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the airports proposed to be privatized;

(b) whether Foreign Airlines, such as Qatar Air, has been permitted to bid for Metro Airports in our country;

(c) if so, the names of other airlines which are permitted; and

(d) whether this will infringe upon our security system?

Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports

157. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been estimated that modernisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports would require an investment of Rs. 1864 crores and Rs. 2030 crores, respectively;

(b) whether Government have apprehensions over the private sector investing in such projects because of negative returns;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India is keen to secure a Government grant as it needs compensation for losses when the principal earning assets in Mumbai and Delhi are hived off; and

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

Losses due to non-checking of aircrafts

158. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has suffered huge losses during the last few years due to delay in completion of various checks of aircrafts in the engineering bases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed/propose to fix responsibility for such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Route rationalisation of Air India and Indian Airlines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the route rationalisation proposal of Air India and Indian Airlines has been shelved; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Sharing of air travel tax

160. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for parting a part of foreign travel tax and internal air travel tax to fund the new international airport coming up at Shamshabad;

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

(c) whether the AAI has taken any decision on this request; and

(d) if not, by when a decision would be taken in this regard?

Extension of open sky policy

161. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to extend the open sky policy for another two years during the peak tourist season October-March;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what impact it would have on tourism in India in the coming years?

Impact of fare review on AI's revenue

162. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AI has announced special domestic sector fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far it has helped to net additional revenue since its implementation and whether any other Airline has also made similar concession; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Losses suffered by Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam airports

163. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tirupati and Vishakhapatnam airports in Andhra Pradesh are consistently incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase scheduled operations of Indian Airlines to these airports to increase traffic so that these airports are revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pilots' strike

164. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots of Air India went on strike during April, 2003;

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

(c) the details of the agreement reached with them in calling off their week-long strike; and

(d) the salaries and perks being paid to pilots and crew members per month, including other facilities available to them?

Financial assistance for Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has sent any proposal for financial assistance from the international agencies for the development projects of the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of each proposal; and

(d) the necessary action taken or being taken by the Central Government on the said proposals?

Shortage of coins

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of coins in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to import coins keeping in view the acute shortage of coins in the country;

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

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to cast coins in the country itself?

Cases pending in DRTs

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

(a) the number of cases pending with different DRTs alongwith the total amount involved;

(b) the number of tribunals functioning at present and whether Government will increase their numbers in view of the number of pending cases; and

(c) if so, by when?

Paying back of excise refund by tobacco companies

168. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco companies are required to pay back the excise refund received by them as per past policy which has been revised retrospectively;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) the reasons for policy revision with retrospective effect?

Permanent amnesty scheme

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a permanent amnesty scheme;

(b) if so, what are the features of the permanent amnesty scheme;

(c) whether the new scheme is expected to exist side by side with the stricter tax regime; and

(d) whether under this scheme the tax payer will be asked to pay tax at the rate prevailing at the time the income originated or at the current rate?

Foreign debt

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

(a) whether India's foreign debt has mounted to more than US\$ 105.00 billion presently;

(b) if so, whether this translates into every Indian citizen carrying a foreign debt burden of more than US\$ 100.00 on his head; and

(c) whether Government feel it prudent to pay off a part of the foreign debt out of India's present bulging forex reserve?

Central Government Group Insurance Scheme

† 171. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3315

given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd April, 2003 and state:

(a) by when the specific information required for amending the rates of contribution under Central Government Group Insurance Scheme will be received from different Ministries/Departments;

(b) the dates on which Ministry of Finance has written to different Ministries/Departments for sending this information; and

(c) what is the latest position in this regard?

Increase in foreign exchange reserve

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

(a) whether it is a fact that since liberalisation, rupee has been losing four or five per cent against the dollar every calendar year, but for the first time last year, it gained 1.08 per cent and in the first three and half months of calendar year 2003, it has already gained 1.35 per cent;

(b) whether this has resulted in huge forex reserves with the RBI; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to deal with the excess dollar supply?

Ban on stapling of currency notes

173. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4702 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether PSU banks have demanded the installation of note counting machines in their branches so that instead of stapling,

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

currency notes could be counted as per demands of the customers and then tied with rubber bands; and

(b) if so, the present status of meeting the demands of PSU banks?

Excise waiver on processed poultry feeds

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

(a) whether the poultry industry has been pressing for excise waiver on processed poultry feeds and also for a levy of only 4 per cent under the proposed VAT;

(b) whether the poultry industry contributes more than Rs. 12,000 crores to GNP; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider providing relief considering the low-cost nutritional benefits accruing from poultry products including eggs?

Misuse of exemption of transfer of listed stocks

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

(a) whether there are instances of misuse of the new provision of exemption of transfer of listed stocks, hardly traded, acquired on or after 1st March, 2003 and before 1st March, 2004 from tax;

(b) whether the market operators are looking at companies with illiquid and hardly traded shares, to rump up share prices and then exit after holding period of one year; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

Action against errant companies

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

(a) whether Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has decided to crack down on companies that failed to transfer unclaimed dividends, interest and other amount to investor education and protection fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action against companies for violation of Government rules, and if so, the names of the companies and action taken against them?

Electronic refund of excess tax deductions

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

(a) whether Income-tax department is contemplating a move to refund excess tax deductions electronically into the bank accounts of tax payees;

(b) if so, whether the electronic transfer of excess deduction is likely to begin from this fiscal year; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are also planning to make rules simpler for tax payees, and if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of Kargil Tax

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

(a) the total amount collected as Kargil Tax so far; and

(b) the details of utilisation of funds so collected?

Consensus on VAT

179. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consensus has been arrived at in regard to the introduction of Value Added Tax;

(b) if answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, by when the VAT is to be operationalised; and

(c) whether adequate infrastructure has been created at the State level and if not, by when States will be ready with well-equipped implementation machinery?

Guarantees to State undertakings

180. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the State Governments are providing guarantee to the State undertakings without effective scrutiny;

(b) if so, what are the impact on banks' advances to such undertakings on the basis of State guarantees; and

(c) whether it is adding to the Bankers' NPAs (Non-performing Assets)?

Agreement with Chinese banks

181. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese banks

have decided to work closely to support business;

(b) if so, whether to give a fillip to greater investment and trade by domestic companies in China, Indian banks will be looking at entering into counterpart agreement with Chinese banks;

(c) whether business leaders have also requested the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of China to collaborate closely so that there is a synergy in banking policies of the two countries; and

(d) if so, to what extent both India and China have agreed to help the business to flourish in both the countries?

Community-based Universal Health Insurance Scheme

182. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Community-based Universal Health Insurance Scheme announced in the budget speech has since been launched;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) when it was launched and the response of the public to the scheme?

Recommendations of expert committee on currency notes

183.DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the expert committee on increasing the life of Indian notes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NPA's of nationalised banks

† 184. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total NPAs of banks have crossed Rs. one lakh crores;

(b) if so, the total NPAs of the Indian banks as on 30th June, 2003, bank-wise;

(c) the method that is being applied by Government in determining NPAs;

(d) the total NPAs of nationalised banks as on 31st March, 2002; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce NPAs?

Utilisation of Central assistance

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many States are not able to utilise their Central assistance, loan and calamity relief fund, drought relief, SC and ST assistance because of financial constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that because of the worst financial condition and natural calamities, Orissa is also not able to utilise fund from 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to help these financially weak States?

Restructuring of loans of corporates

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some financial institutions and banks are rescheduling/restructuring the payment of loans by some corporates who have been involved in diversion of funds;

(b) if so, what are the names of the banks and financial institutions; and

(c) what are the names of the groups or corporate bodies who are involved in diversion of funds and are being helped in the above manner?

Recovery of NPAs

187. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the nationalised banks have come down after the Securitisation and Acquisition of Assets Act has come into effect;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs of the nationalised banks as on 31st March, 2002 and 31st March, 2003; and

(c) the NPAs recovered and the amount written off during the year 2002-03 by each of these banks?

Circulation of counterfeit currency

188. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decline in the circulation of counterfeit Indian currency in the market in the recent past; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trends in revenue collection

189. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trends in revenue collection in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

(b) what is the prorata increase or decrease in respect of each tax?

Reduction in non-plan expenditure

190 SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government have been able to reduce the non-plan expenditure (excluding the expenditure on loan repayment and interest payment); and

(b) what are the details thereof for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

SEBI investigation into share scam

†191. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the enquiry into the recent share scam was conducted by Security and Exchange Board of India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have received any interim report in this case; and

(c) if so, the persons found guilty on the basis of this report and the amount assessed to have been involved in this scam?

External debt position

192. DR. M.N. DAS:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's outstanding external debt has shot up from \$98.76 billion in March, 2002 to \$104.99 billion in December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this will have a serious impact on the Indian economy;

(c) whether Government are confident that the country's foreign debt position is comfortable and economy is well insulated from possible external sector shocks;

(d) if so, whether the latest status report of the Ministry of Finance has pointed out India's position as alarming; and

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

Administrative control of NCB

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Narcotics Control Bureau is under administrative control of Ministry of Finance because opium is considered as source of earning revenue; and

(b) if so, whether it will be administratively better if NCB is placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal effectively with illicit market, reducing opium addicts and law and order control?

Protection to shareholders in joint ventures

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

(a) whether the interest of Indian

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

promoters, shareholders and lenders are adequately protected in joint ventures as the present exit norms are rather liberal for overseas investors/foreign partners; and

(b) if not, whether any fresh safeguards are being introduced so that Indian partners' interests are not unduly jeopardized?

Fraudulent claims for duty drawback

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of fraudulent claims for duty drawback and the amount involved is on the increase;

(b) whether duty drawback is claimed on account of fake/fictitious exports;

(c) in what manner Government propose to overcome such a menace; and

(d) the details of claimants of such fraudulent claims, which came to light of Government during the last 12 months?

Income tax dues on film artists

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

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax on the famous film artists of the country during the last fiscal year together with their names thereof;

(b) outstanding income tax on each of them separately along with the time since when the same is pending;

(c) what efforts Government are making to recover the income tax; and

(d) what incentives Government have given for timely payment of income tax?

Survey on GDP growth rate

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

(a) whether survey has indicated that the GDP rate has declined in the first quarter of the current financial year; and

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

Transfer of earnings by foreign channels

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

(a) whether the foreign channels broadcasting in India are transferring their earnings to their controlling companies based overseas;

(b) if so, which are the channels and how much of their earnings are being transferred annually; and

(c) what are the provisions under which this is being done?

Scam in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

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

(a) whether a financial scam amounting to over one crore rupees in the Prithviraj Road, Jaipur branch of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has come to the notice of Government;

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

(c) whether any arrests have been made;

(d) what is the present status of the case; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the steps contemplated by Government to prevent such scams in PSU banks of the country?

Entry of public sector banks in capital market

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an apprehension of common customers losing their capital because of the entry of public sector banks in the capital market; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to save the common customers?

Loan for the development of agriculture

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

(a) what are the details of loans provided by the nationalised banks, private banks and foreign banks during the last three years for the development of agriculture and small scale industries, State-wise, bank-wise;

(b) the percentage of loan out of the total loan disbursed by these banks to agriculture and small scale industries during the said period; and

(c) the details of the norms set by these banks for grant of loan to the agriculture and small scale industries?

Withdrawal of pension plan for senior citizens

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after having announced the pension plan for senior

citizens on the 17th June, 2003 in all prominent national dailies, Government hastily retreated and withdrew it the very next day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the scheme has been abandoned finally; and

(d) if not, by when the same is likely to be announced and formally put in place?

Subsidy on Kerosene and LPG

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Finance on the issue of the period of granting subsidy on Kerosene and LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it has been resolved or by when it is likely to be resolved?

Medium term fiscal revamp policy for States

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

(a) whether any measures have been taken to improve the financial position of State Governments under medium term fiscal revamp policy (MTFRP); and

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

Tax rebate for Kargil martyrs

†205. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions for giving rebate in paying various central taxes

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to the widows of Kargil martyrs and also to the widows of the personnel killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance is considering the proposal to give uniform rebate to the families of both the categories of the martyrs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Strike in banking sector

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

(a) the strikes observed in the Banking Sector during the last one year;

(b) the effect on the banking business and losses suffered by banks due to these strikes; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring public sector banks at par with the private banks and by when the results of the same will be forthcoming?

Delay in sanctioning loans

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there is delay in getting loans from banks and financial institutions for the projects of companies;

(b) what is the number of complaints received by Government in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that loans are provided to the companies in time?

CRISIL estimates on NPAs of banks

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

(a) whether the rating agencies CRISIL and FITCH have estimated independently that the Non-Performing Assets of public sector banks are actually double the estimates worked out by Indian Banks' Association;

(b) whether according to CRISIL/FITCH estimates, the combined NPAs of public sector banks have now crossed Rs. 1,300,000 crores mark; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has any mechanism in place to assess the extent of NPAs of Banks independently and if so, the details thereof?

Repayment of bilateral debt

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of repaying a part of the bilateral debt of about Rs. 7,500 crores;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to which Government propose to repay their debt; and

(c) the total debt outstanding against these countries; country-wise?

RBI's advice on reduction in subsidies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has advised Government to cut subsidies in sectors like power, railways, water, etc; and to increase infrastructure investment;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action Government have taken on the advice?

Debt swap scheme for banks

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced debt swap scheme for banks;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to buy back 24 illiquid Government of India securities with a total fund value of Rs. 80 crores from banks and public sector financial institutions; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Use of counterfeit credit cards

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

- (a) whether the use of counterfeit credit cards has caused cheating to the banks to the tune of several lakhs in the past few months;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether Government/nationalised banks have adopted any policy to check such frauds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Abolition of posts in Central Government offices

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission had identified 42,000 posts for abolition in the offices of Central

Government while Government have identified only 23,900 posts and if so, the reasons for different figures in both the cases; and

- (b) how many posts have since been abolished and by when the entire identified posts would be abolished?

Transfer of bilateral assistance

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to stop taking bilateral aid and pre-pay part of its bilateral debt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how far it would reduce the interest burden; and
- (d) whether Government also propose to transfer this bilateral assistance to other developing countries which need greater official development assistance aid and if so, the details thereof?

Pending cases of US-64 certificates

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

- (a) whether Government have made full and final payment of cash values or issued 6.75 Government bonds in lieu of all the US-64 certificates;
- (b) if so, when the last payment was made;
- (c) whether any claim is still pending with the UTI; and
- (d) if so, by when the same is likely to be disposed?

Structural adjustment loan to States

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa, among others, has been sanctioned World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan from the Central Government, if so, the details of the loan so sanctioned;

(b) the details of other States which have been given this loan; and

(c) the specific works that would be carried out with this loan and conditions, if any, attached to this?

Funds from Devolution Tax to M.P.

†217. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by 11th Finance Commission about the funds Madhya Pradesh is likely to get from Devolution Tax each year from 2000-2001 to 2003-2004; and

(b) the total amount of less funds Madhya Pradesh has got during the last four years due to non-payment of Devolution Tax as per this assessment?

Unclaimed bank accounts

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

(a) the total amount in different accounts in Nationalised Banks in the country as on 30th June, 2003 which has neither been withdrawn nor claimed for the last many years i.e. the depositors are either dead or missing;

(b) the manner in which such amount is utilised and whether there is any provision to send the information in this regard to the depositors by banks on the address etc.

mentioned by them while opening bank account; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in loan disbursement by financial institutions

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp and consistent decline in the quantum of loans disbursed by financial institutions like IDBI, IFCI, SIDBI and ICICI Bank in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise and financial institution-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that on the other hand NPAs of these financial institutions have increased manifold during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to improve the loan disbursements and liquidate the NPAs of these financial institutions?

Repayment of unsecured loan

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

(a) whether presently there is a maximum limit of five years within which an unsecured loan given by banks and financial institutions has to be repaid;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the period upto 10 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Debt-GDP ratio

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

(a) whether according to the United Nations Survey, India has transformed from a moderate to low indebted country with a debt-GDP ratio of 20 per cent; and

(b) whether Government propose to leverage this ratio by raising additional debt to subserve the urgent needs for funds for infrastructure?

Profits from Sudan oilfields

222. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 76 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th February, 2003 and state the details of profits earned from Sudan oilfields?:

ONGC's new retail outlets

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

(a) whether Government have given permission to ONGC to open 500 retail outlets in the country;

(b) if so, the break-up of the outlets proposed to be set up in various States of the country, State-wise; and

(c) by when, these are going to become operational?

Domestic production of LNG

224. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that domestic production of LNG would negate the need for import of this gas by 2006-07;

(b) if so, whether Government are revising the demand-supply projections for natural gas; and

(c) whether the domestic production would provide some relief to the consumers by way of reduction in costs for home consumption?

Import of LPG and Kerosene

†225. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG and Kerosene oil is being met by means of import;

(b) if not, the percentage of the demand met by means of import during 2000-2001, 2001-2003 in the country;

(c) whether any concrete step has been taken by Government to reduce the dependence on import for meeting such demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the country is likely to become self-sufficient in this field?

LPG consumers

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

(a) the percentage of total population in the country consuming LPG;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase the consumption of LPG in environmentally sensitive States like Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir etc. in order to save forests in these States; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Commercial appraisal of discoveries made in KG basin

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

(a) whether requisite appraisal of hydrocarbon discoveries made in the Krishna Godavari basin recently has been made to establish their commercial viability; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rejection of allotments by relatives of Kargil martyrs

228. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether allotment of petrol pumps, LPG and kerosene depots has been made to all near and dear ones of Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, the details of allotments made to relatives of Kargil martyrs till date;

(c) whether any allotments were rejected or turned down by their relatives;

(d) if so, the numbers thereof; and

(e) what were the reasons for the rejection of the allotments?

Purchase of petroleum products from private companies

†229. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum

Corporation Ltd. had purchased petroleum products from oil companies in the private sector in recent years;

(b) if so, the details of petroleum products purchased by the above companies from the private sector oil companies in India during the last three years, together with the year-wise quantity of such petroleum products purchased; and

(c) the prices at which these were purchased during each of the above years?

Reduction in prices of petroleum products

230. DR. AKHILESH DAS:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether prices of petrol and petroleum products were reduced on May 15, 2003 in tune with the global softening of crude prices;

(b) if so, the percentage of fall in global prices of crude and how far this reduction was proportionate to the reduction in prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products; and

(c) the number of times the prices have since been readjusted and the details thereof?

Crude oil reserve

231. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether a blue-print for creating a buffer stock of crude oil, as an insurance against disruption of supplies in the event of war or natural calamities etc., has been drawn up;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of comparative studies undertaken, if any, on the management of similar stocks maintained by some other countries, like the U.S.A., Japan etc.?

Indo-US cooperation for building oil reserves

232. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India propose to seek US help to build oil reserves to meet contingency requirements like disruption of supplies;
- (b) if so, the details of Indo-US cooperation proposed to be explored; and
- (c) by when the plan for building the reserves will be put in place?

LNG storage terminal at Dahej (Gujarat)

†233. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether first Liquified Natural Gas storage terminal in the country is being established at Dahej (Gujarat);
- (b) if so, what is its capacity;
- (c) the amount likely to be spent on the same;
- (d) the States which will be directly benefited from it; and
- (e) by when it will be ready?

New LPG agencies in Karnataka

234. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol pumps operating in Karnataka;
- (b) whether the number of those outlets are adequate in proportion to the growing population of the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to set-up new LPG agencies/retail outlets in the next few years?

Gas agencies in Uttar Pradesh

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

- (a) the number of gas agencies as on date in Uttar Pradesh and their distribution, district-wise;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to open more gas agencies in the State during 2003 and 2004;
- (c) if so, whether the places for the purpose have been identified; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of new CBM blocks

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

- (a) the names of eight blocks in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal where exploration and production of Coal Bed Methane has started;
- (b) the quantum of gas produced from these blocks during 2002-03, the likely production during 2003-04 and how and where the same is proposed to be utilized;
- (c) whether any new CBM blocks have been identified; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely annual production therefrom?

Barauni Oil Refinery

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

(a) the estimated capacity of Barauni oil refinery situated in Bihar;

(b) whether supply of crude oil to the refinery is as per its installed capacity;

(c) if not, the loss suffered during each of the last three years as a result thereof;

(d) whether Government have made any scheme for supply of crude oil as per its capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

New oil refineries in Rajasthan

238. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up oil refineries at any convenient place of Rajasthan for generation of employment in view of new oil and gas reserves found at various places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Gas reserve in Madhya Pradesh

239. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance

Industries Ltd. has struck a huge gas reserve in its onshore CBM exploration block in Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof with its commercial production schedules; and

(c) the purposes for which the gas produced from shahdol field is to be utilized and its share in production of power in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra?

Delay in launching of GASOHOL

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

(a) whether Government have extended the deadline for launching the petrol-ethanol mixture GASOHOL all over the country;

(b) whether this is due to severe imbalance among the States in terms of the size of sugar production capacity thereby ensuring regular supply of molasses;

(c) whether inter-State movement of molasses based ethanol will be subject to existing Central excise laws; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to overcome such problems?

Securitisation scheme for petroleum sector

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are in the process of finalising securitisation scheme for the petroleum sector;

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

(c) whether the scheme is on the lines of the scheme that has been adopted for SEBs; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) in what manner securitisation scheme would help the petroleum sector to improve further?

ADB's offer for TAP project

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

(a) whether India has not shown any interest to an offer by Asian Development Bank (ADB) for laying \$3.5 billion gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal offered by ADB; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the proposal of ADB by the Central Government?

Dealership for rural areas in Assam

243. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of Government for setting up of kerosene, LPG and petrol pump outlets in various districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of places identified in rural areas of Assam for opening kerosene, LPG and petrol pump agencies?

Introduction of small cylinder

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

(a) whether 5 k.g. domestic LPG cylinder has been introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps are being taken to make available such LPG cylinders throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Opening of Taj Mahal during night

245. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to keep the Taj Mahal open even during the night;

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

(c) whether the approval of the Supreme Court has since been obtained for this purpose; and

(d) by when the visitors would be allowed to see the Taj Mahal even during night and what arrangements have been made for this purpose?

Funds for eco-friendly tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh

246. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prioritised eco-friendly tourism projects of Andhra Pradesh in consultation with the State Government;

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

(c) the funds earmarked for each of these projects of the State?

Protection of historical monuments in Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has been neglected by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture as the grant and assistance given to Orissa from 2000 till today is the lowest in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the funds which were given to the Konark, Puri, Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratangiri Nagudi has not been utilised till today, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Brahmamath Mandir, Jagannath Temple, Trilochaneswara, Attaharnal and other places of Jajpur townside has been taken over by the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(d) if so, the project details to protect these historical monuments?

Protection of ancient idols and statues

248. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the steps Government are taking to protect all ancient statues and idols in view of the fact that there has been gradual increase in their smuggling;

(b) whether Government have come up with any plans or strategies to protect these ancient statues and idols from falling into the wrong hands;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Performance of ASI

249. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has shown dissatisfaction with the performance of the

Archaeological Survey of India and has decided to professionalise it;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is pressing for a separate Indian Archaeological Service within the Central Services hierarchy;

(c) whether this proposal has been considered by the Central Government;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons put forward by the Ministry for separate Archaeological Service; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Antiques/articles stolen from National Museum, Delhi

250. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the number of antiques/articles of historical importance stolen from the National Museum, Delhi, during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) how many, out of them, have since been recovered?

Revenue from duty free shops

251. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) the year-wise details of amount of funds generated from sale at duty free shops at all international airports throughout the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been an increase or decrease in sale from duty free shops in the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount of funds generated from sales on international flights?

Tourist attractions in Delhi

252. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi offers a rich and multifaceted cultural heritage through its monuments which have become major tourist attractions;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to add more tourist attractions; and

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

World Heritage status to Mahabodhi Temple

†253. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any action plan to develop Bodh Gaya and Matrigaya (Siddhpur-Gujarat) as a major tourist spot; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Mahabodhi Temple of Bodh Gaya has achieved World Heritage status; if so, when; and

(c) the names of other tourist spots in the country which have achieved World Heritage status and the names of other tourist spots for which Government are trying to achieve World Heritage status?

Construction of Taj Heritage Project

†254. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

construction of Taj Heritage Project was started without any necessary Governmental clearances;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of Government departments from whom the clearance was necessary for the construction; and

(c) the names of the departments from whom clearance was obtained along with the total costs of the project and the amount spent, so far?

Protection and development of religious places in Uttaranchal

†255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for protection and development of various religious places, temples etc. of Uttaranchal and also for expansion of facilities for tourists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Package for Gandhi Darshan

†256. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared a national level unique package for Gandhi Darshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this package is likely to be implemented?

Constitution of trusts for shrines

257. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the outcome of the State Tourism Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on May 13, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken towards constitution of trusts for the management of shrines in the country similar to what exists for Vaishno Devi Shrine?

License to photographers in Agra

258. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 639 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May 2003 and state:

(a) whether a large number of Photographer-workers of Agra had requested the ASI to issue them licenses under the revised guidelines;

(b) whether these persons were having licenses under the old policy also;

(c) if so, whether they have been issued licenses; and

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

World Bank aided projects of Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) what is the present status of the World Bank aided Hydrology Project, A.P. Irrigation Project III, and A.P. Economic Restructuring Project (Irrigation) in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the projects have been completed; and

(c) if not, by when they are likely to be completed?

Requirement *vis-a-vis* availability of water

260. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the WHO and UNICEF study water supply and sanitation in India would outstrip by 31 per cent by the middle of the century;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to that study, per capita annual requirement of water would be 1422 billion cubic metres and availability of water would be only 1086 billion cubic metres; and

(c) if so, in what manner, the Ministry of Water Resources is thinking of matching the availability and utilisation of water for human consumption?

Progress of rain water harvesting schemes

261. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of rain harvesting schemes which are being vigorously implemented in various metros of the country;

(b) the number of cities which have actually implemented the scheme *in toto*;

(c) whether Government are giving any incentives to various colonies which go in for rain harvesting programme; and

(d) what actual benefits have taken place through this programme?

**Construction work at Chitravathi
Project in Karnataka**

262. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team from the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought "urgent intervention" by the Central Government to stop further construction works at the Chitravathi Project in Karnataka; and

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

**Expenditure on repair of weak
embankments in Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Orissa has sent a project report of Rs. 12.89 billion to the Central Government for repair of the weak embankments in the State;

(b) whether it includes expenditure on repairing of embankments, coastal project and proper water drainage; and

(c) whether World Bank has provided any assistance for this purpose; if so, the details thereof?

**Proposals for new irrigation projects
in Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has sent 10 new irrigation project proposals tentatively

costing Rs. 1242 crores to the Central Government;

(b) whether these new projects will be located in the Western Orissa districts and will irrigate vast areas in the drought-hit districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sambalpur etc.; and

(c) the present status of the projects?

**Resettlement of drought prone
farmers in Andhra Pradesh**

265. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to intervene to resolve issues between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka regarding the storage capacity increase in the Jurala project across the Krishna river and the execution of certain works on the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) which would ensure increased inflows to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the action proposed to assist the drought-prone farmers of Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh for increasing the project storage capacity as the Andhra Pradesh Government is ready to pay towards rehabilitation/resettlement of the people in areas that would be submerged following increased storage; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure amicable settlement in the matter?

Dams on rivers flowing from Nepal

†266. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of Indo-Nepal dialogue regarding construction of dams on the rivers flowing from Nepal into Northern Bihar for controlling floods;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any dialogue in this regard was held during the visit of the Nepali Prime Minister to India;

(c) whether any assurance was given by the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the status of the progress made in the light of the dialogue and the assurances given?

Drinking water to all by 2004

267. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1372 given in the Rajya Sabha on March 4, 2003 and state the steps being taken to achieve the target of covering all rural habitations with drinking water supply by 2004 as proposed by Government?

Meeting on Paragodu and Upper Tunga

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

(a) whether a meeting was convened by Chairman of Central Water Commission in the last week of June, 2003 to sort out controversial issues between States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on projects like Paragodu and Upper Tunga;

(b) if so, what was the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether another meeting is proposed in the near future; and

(d) if so, when it would be held?

New Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka will have severe adverse impact on irrigation system in four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Kurnool, Ananapur, Cuddapah and Mahabubnagar; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government would intervene and instruct Karnataka Government to keep in view the interests of farmers of above four districts of Andhra Pradesh?

Contaminated underground water

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground water in several States has become contaminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government to tackle this serious situation?

Centrally-sponsored schemes for water resources

†271. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented in the country for providing assistance to State Governments for augmenting water resources and exploitation thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the year-wise amount allocated alongwith the amount released to each State particularly to Jharkhand under each scheme during the last three years till date; and

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

Shortage of water

272. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has identified shortage of water as one of the most worrying problems in the time to come;

(b) if so, what would be the estimated demand of potable water in India during the next five years;

(c) whether there has been an increase in use of water during the last ten years and this demand will increase further during the next decade; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the requirements of people during the next decade?

Exploitation of ground water by farm houses

273. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive exploitation of ground water by farm houses in South and South West Delhi is leading to a sharp fall in the water table in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to prevent the over-exploitation of ground water?

Agreement with China for hydrological data

†274. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 814 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to enter into an agreement with China for exchange of hydrological data of the rivers originating from China on the lines of Brahmaputra river agreement so that possibilities of extraordinarily devastating floods in Sutlej river could be minimised in future;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Water Resources as National Wealth

275. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested that the Central Government should take up development of water resources as national wealth; and

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

Payment of salaries to NPCC employees

†276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of NPCC are not being paid their salaries on time;

(b) if so, whether various workers' unions have submitted memoranda to Government for fulfilling their demands; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the demands and the steps being taken by Government for fulfilling the same?

Objections raised by Ministry of Environment and Forests

277. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decision of Government to link the rivers of India and develop inter-basin transfers of water is being reviewed in view of some serious difficulties likely to be faced and reservation expressed by many State Governments, NGOs and others;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recently expressed serious concerns by giving a long list of 23 objections to the proposal;

(c) the details of the views expressed by various State Governments, the concerned Ministries at the Centre and others; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

Protection of lower riparian States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

278. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sharing of river waters had become a major contentious issue among the States in recent times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Prime Minister had to intervene to sort out the difference between the upper and lower riparian States;

(c) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by Andhra Pradesh due to non-cooperation of Karnataka which is in upper reaches of Tungbhabhadra and Pennar in times of distress; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan or suggestion to protect the interest of lower riparian States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu?

WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on water supply and sanitation

279. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on the country's water supply and sanitation, 200 districts in the country have high fluoride concentration in groundwater, spread over 17 States and affecting a population of some 25 million;

(b) whether it is a fact that West Bengal is reported to be at risk owing to the presence of arsenic in groundwater;

(c) whether the report has recommended enactment of groundwater legislation in all the States; and

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

NEW DELHI;
The 16th July, 2003
Asadha 25, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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