

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Tuesday, the April 23, 2002/Vaisakha 3, 1924 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—155

Retirement age of air hostesses

3079. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back, the Supreme Court of India pronounced a judgement ruling that the air hostesses employed in Air India should be assigned flying air hostesses duties till the age of 58 years instead of 45;

(b) if so, whether Government have started implementing the decision;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been put in place specifying the health and fitness standards for such duties and if so, the details thereof?

(b) whether Government would consider to improve the airport upto international standard in near future?

Encroachments around airports

3081. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the airports including some premiere ones like Mumbai are surrounded by sprawling encroachments even right upto the perimeter wall posing serious hazard to air traffic and avoidable security threat; and

(b) if so, the details of the problems faced at different airports and the action taken/proposed to be taken to remove these encroachments with their present status?

Expansion of Dibrugarh Airport

3080. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for neglecting expansion of Dibrugarh Airport lounges, which are very much congested in comparison to the number of passengers; and

Revision of pay scales of IA/AA ground staff

3082. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground staff working in Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are provided other different pay scales/structure for the same work/job;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the salary of staff other than ground staff has been revised in Alliance Air; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not revising the pay structure of ground staff?

Operational facilities to foreign airlines

3083. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cruise Control : Government restrictions make foreign airlines think twice before setting up shop in India" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th March, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to create favourable conditions for the foreign airlines to operate?

IA services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia

3084. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines are contemplating to start its services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned these flights; and

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

Training to Pilots

3085. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send pilots to England for training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have entered into any negotiations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Security Hazard at Mumbai Airport

3086. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether slums around the Mumbai airport are a great security hazard;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to clear at least fifty feet area outside the boundary wall of the slums;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Security of Mumbai Airport could be breached from slums surrounding the Airport; and

(d) the steps taken to make Mumbai Airport safe?

Installation of DVOR at Jabalpur Airport

†3087. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not giving OK certificate so far to DVOR installed at Jabalpur Airport together with the reasons for the delay in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any proposal to install ILS category equipments at this airport is under the consideration of Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government propose to give the said certificate?

Review of safety norms

3088. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a High Powered Committee to review the safety norms, etc., followed by private operators of chartered aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, what are the recommendations of the Committee?

Norms for expansion of fleet

3089. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Aircrafts above ten years old used by the Airlines companies in India;

(b) whether there are any proposal with the Airlines companies to replace their ageing fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any norms are maintained for the expansion of fleet; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation of slum dwellers around Mumbai Airport

3090. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has removed a number of slums from its encroached land in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has any plan to rehabilitate those removed slum dwellers; and

(d) if so, what is the status of the rehabilitation?

Air connectivity

† 3091. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India, Indian Airlines and private sector airways have been unable to connect the country by air so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there have been some policy related reasons behind this;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it will be beneficial if Ministry of Tourism and Culture and Ministry of Civil Aviation sign an agreement to act together under a common policy development scheme; and

(d) the criteria Government would adopt for establishing the quality of aircraft during their purchase?

Air services from Srinagar for Haj Pilgrims

3092. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a direct flight for Haj Pilgrimages from Srinagar to Jeddah Sharif;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that 40 per cent Muslim population of Jammu Province is deprived of this facility;

(c) if so, whether Government will start such a direct flight for Hajis from Jammu to Jeddah Sharif from next year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Service condition of employees of AI

3093. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of permanent employees of Air India as on 1st April and 1st October 2001;

(b) the number of employees as on 1st October, 2001 who were in age group of 55 to 58;

(c) whether it is a 'service condition' in Air India that employees in the above age group could be laid off; and

(d) if so, how many of them were laid off in the first half of this financial year?

Regularisation of ground staff in AA

3094. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground staff employed in Alliance Air has not been regularised even after four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the promotion of various categories of ground staff employees is also pending for a long time; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Clearance of encroachments around airports

3095. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Plane Truth: Soon a cow on the runway" which appeared in the Times of India dated 17th March, 2002;

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

(c) the measures proposed to be adopted to clear the encroachments in the various airports in the country as highlighted in the news-item which are proving serious security hazards?

IA package to Andhra Pradesh

3096. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has offered any package to the Government of Andhra Pradesh which will promote tourism here in coordination with Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the State Government's reaction in that regard; and

(d) what is the present status of the package?

International flights from Hyderabad Airport

3097. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines of UK, Switzerland, Singapore and Sri Lanka have shown interest to operate their flights to and from Hyderabad Airport;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to grant permission to these airlines to start their flights; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Losses due to open sky policy

3098. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether open sky policy to tide over the capacity crunch as a short term solution is causing loss of Rs. 15,000 crores with 40 international flights discontinuing operation;
- (b) whether Welcome Travels owns a sum of about Rs. 3 crores paid to them during 1997-98 because of excess commission by Air India; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government on both the issues?

Permission to private vehicles in the operational area

3099. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that VIP passengers are now taking their personal vehicles into the operational area at Indira Gandhi International Airport thus flouting airport security;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that permitting such vehicles into the operational area can lead to a major accident for obvious reasons; and
- (c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to strictly enforce the airport security rules?

Modernisation of airport at Madurai

3100. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated for expansion/modernisation of airport at Madurai;
- (b) what is the progress of work; and
- (c) by when the work will be completed?

DGCA as a regulator for airlines

3101. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to convert the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into an independent regulator for the airline sector; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the structure and scope of activities and responsibilities of the regulator, especially those relating to technical and economic issues and its present status?

Losses due to non-operation of flights to Pakistan

† 3102. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the flights which operated *via* Pakistan and the names of the flights of Pakistan which operated *via* India prior to 1st January, 2002;
- (b) whether Government have imposed ban on the flights bound for the other country passing through Pakistan w.e.f. 1st January, 2002; and
- (c) if so, the alternative measures taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by Government and the additional financial burden likely to be borne by the passengers?

Purchase of Westland Helicopters

3103. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered by the country on account of purchase of Westland Helicopters;

(b) whether an enquiry was conducted for the defective purchase;

(c) if so, the persons held responsible for the defective purchase;

(d) if not, the reasons for not conducting an enquiry;

(e) whether Government took up the matter with the British Government for sale of poor quality helicopters and what was their response; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken by Government to avoid similar loss in future?

New Trade Fair Centres in Rajasthan

3104. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up New Trade Fair Centres in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what will be the total cost of the project and the speciality of these centres?

Loss of exporting capacity

†3105. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the new Exim policy declared on the advice of World Trade Organisation our exporters will be failed as compared to large exporters of the world and our exporting capacity will be lost and on the other hand in the name of import due to capturing the market by foreign investors we will be fully dependant on imports and our production will also suffer;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether the country will be economically slave as a result thereof?

Export of key products

†3106. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to locate the markets for the exports of the products of the key sectors of the country due to which the nation has to incur heavy losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have failed to export the agricultural produce of the country due to which that peasants have to incur heavy loss; and

(c) by when Government will be able to export the key products of the country?

Impact of Exim Policy

3107. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overall impact of the Exim Policy 2001; and

(b) to what extent exporters have been benefited by the policy?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Export of wheat

3108. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat exported during
the last fiscal year;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange
earned by the deal; and

(c) whether it has upgraded India's
position in the list of wheat exporting
countries?

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to set up CIPC on the lines of UK, USA
and Japan;

(c) if not, the Reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for
effective and speedy enforcement of
Intellectual Property Rights?

Revamping of FIPB system of approvals

3111. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
are planning to streamline and revamp the
FIPB system of foreign investments in the
country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that henceforth
the meetings will be organised through the
PMO;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to come into
operation; and

(d) whether this streamlining will benefit
the applicants; and if so, in what manner?

Indo-Pakistan trade

3109. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will
the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade between
India and Pakistan is adversely affected
because of the suspension of train services
between the two countries;

(b) if so, the commodities exported from
India and imported from Pakistan during
the last two years and the value thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose
to ensure that trade between the two
countries is not affected?

Common Intellectual Property Court

3110. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-
VUKKARASU:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to
establish Common Intellectual Property
Court (CIPC) to deal with Intellectual
Property Rights cases across the
country;

Facilities at SEZs

3112. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K.M. KHAN:

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

(a) the number of 'Special Economic
Zones' set up in the country, State-wise, with
special reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the response of private parties/
exporter in setting up of their units in these
Zones;

(c) whether any 'State of Art' infrastructure facilities have been provided at these Zones;

(d) the total amount of FDI attracted by the Zones; and

(e) the type of industries/product specific units set up in Zones?

Value of exports and imports

†3113. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of the country are increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the value of imports and exports made during 1990-91;

(c) the value of imports and exports made during the year 2000-2001; and

(d) the gap between imports and exports in foreign trade during both of the above periods and the reasons for increase in this gap?

Import of rubber

3114. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the agencies/companies importing rubber during the last three years;

(b) the volume of rubber imported by each agency during this period; year-wise; and

(c) the demand-supply position of rubber for the last three years?

Industries in Rajasthan

3115. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of industries/factories established in Rajasthan as compared to other States during the last three years and till date in view of the needs of economic and industrial development of the State particularly in the backward areas of the State;

(b) whether Government have formulated any new policy to set up industries there on priority basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by Government?

Import scenario

†3116. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are importing those goods which are abundantly produced in the country;

(b) if so, the details of items so imported; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to export the agricultural goods in view of increased production thereof?

Investment climate of States

3117. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint-study conducted by World Bank and CII which has identified poor investment climate in States like Kerala, Uttar Pradesh

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and West Bengal, while classifying Maharashtra and Gujarat as best investment climate States; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to identify the reasons for this poor investment climate, and taking time-bound steps in co-ordination with respective State Governments to make these States comparatively significantly competitive?

Quality of exported items

3118. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of consignments of wheat, basmati rice, tea, milk products, fish and coffee for exports to other countries contain fertilizers and hazardous pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to regulate and monitor the use of fertilizers and hazardous pesticides, already banned in some foreign countries, at the field level to boost the export of these items?

Export potential of Jasmine

3119. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of abundant production of Jasmine/Fruits in Madurai and adjoining district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey to assess their export potential;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has recommended to Ministry of Civil Aviation for setting up of a Cargo Complex at Madurai for exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of Chinese goods

3120. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of Chinese goods has affected the Indian industry, if so, to what extent;

(b) the steps Government have taken to check dumping/smuggling of these goods; and

(c) in what manner smuggling of silk yarn into the country affected our own sericulture and weaving industry?

Medium term exports strategy

3121. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some specific studies have been undertaken recently to evolve a medium term exports strategy for the services sector, especially relating to computer software, hospitality industry, super speciality hospitals and, as reported a committee has been constituted therefor; and

(b) if so, the details of the project undertaken, the terms of reference and composition of the Committee?

Export of Onions

3122. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted export of Onions through various States Agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies and the quantity of export, State-wise; and

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested Central Government to enhance the quantity of export, keeping in view the bumper crop and large production in this season?

Growth rate of capital and consumer goods

3123. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether growth rate of capital goods and core industry is deteriorating for the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the growth rate of each of these sectors during the last six months; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government to boost the growth rate?

Investment scenario in Kerala

3124. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item which appeared in "The Hindu" dated the 20th February, 2002 on investment climate poor in Kerala, CII study;

(b) if so, whether political consensus, support from bureaucrats and synergy between Government and industrialists alone will transform Kerala into an investor-friendly State;

(c) whether the above report concede that lack of uninterrupted and quality power supply and the probability of corruption due to the more frequent visit of the Government officials are reasons for the poor investment

climate of Kerala; and

(d) if so, whether any measures will be initiated so as to overcome above difficulties?

Failure of Co-operative Banks

3125. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the causes of recent failure of Co-operative Banks in the country, particularly in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have prepared the revival package for such Co-operative Banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to stop further collapse of Co-operative Banking Sector in the country?

Loan to defaulting companies

3126. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that IDBI and other nationalised banks had sanctioned crores of rupees loan to companies which had defaulted in their repayment of loans in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the companies are adopting novel methods to get loans from banks and financial institutions even if on the defaulters list; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that such companies are not provided loans which are on the defaulter's list?

Grants to State Governments

3127. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to make one time grant of five thousand crore to each State considering the financial crunch faced by many State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pricing norms for equities by SEBI

3128. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has amended the pricing norms for mandatory open offer of 20 per cent equities by corporates after taking over the management control of the public sector undertakings;
- (b) if so, whether a decision to this effect was taken at the SEBI board meeting held in the month of December, 2001; and
- (c) if so, whether Government have accepted the SEBI's proposal?

On-line banking

3129. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of NPAs in the public sector banks as on 31st March, 2002;
- (b) whether it is a fact that on-line banking is one of the answers for reducing the NPAs and Costs of our public sector banks; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government are taking or propose to take to introduce

on-line banking in all the public sector banks of the country?

Exchange of coins with soiled currency in Chhattisgarh

† 3130. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coins and other notes exchanged with mutilated and soiled currency notes of denominations of one, two and five in Chhattisgarh during November, 2000 to February, 2001;
- (b) the names of the banks along with the cities where such arrangement was made by Reserve Bank of India for the same;
- (c) by when such arrangement would be made in other cities; and
- (d) the details of action being taken for keeping these notes out of circulation completely?

Advance Development cess on passengers

3131. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has demanded that the State Government be allowed to levy Rs. 200 advance development cess on all passengers flying out of Hyderabad; and
- (b) if so, the action taken on the request and whether the amount collected would be exempted from income tax?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tax rebate for Bankers and Insurance Companies

†3132. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bankers and Insurance Companies have sought tax rebate;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their demands so far; and

(c) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard and if not, by when it is expected to be considered?

CBI raids on Income tax Department

†3133. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has conducted raids in the houses of the officers and employees of various departments including income tax department at Delhi and various parts of the country and recovered money and properties disproportionate to their income;

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended during the last three months;

(c) whether Government have so far taken any action against them; and

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

Impact of V.R.S. on bank employees

3134. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fifty-two persons who opted for V.R.S. last year from State Bank of India's Goa Division have died due to heart attack during the last nine months within the age group of 48 to 52;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to study the impact of V.R.S. on the retired employees;

(c) whether any cases of ill effects of V.R.S. from other quarters of society has come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Printing of five rupee notes

3135. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reverse its decision on printing of five rupee notes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the ratio between paper currency and metallic currency of rupees five denomination?

Lending targets of public sector banks

3136. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the public sector banks that have not fulfilled the stipulated target of lending 19 per cent of NBC to agriculture despite having wide network of branches in rural areas;

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that banks achieve the stipulated target within a specified period;

(c) whether the RBI has imposed any monetary penalties on any bank for not adhering to achieve the target within the stipulated time; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Balance sheets of ICICI/IDBI

3137. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 29th March, 2002 with the headline 'ICICI, IDBI to provide Rs. 5000 crore to clean up balance sheets;

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

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

Income tax exemptions on investments in backward areas

3138. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue exempting investments in backward areas from income-tax provisions;

(b) whether there has been no substantial inflow of investments to backward areas as anticipated despite this incentive;

(c) whether the Advisory Group on Tax Policy and Administration for the Tenth Five Year Plan has commented that such exemptions serve no useful purpose of generating economic development in backward areas; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to withdraw such exemptions?

Non-modvatable tax on bicycle industry

3139. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for choosing the bicycle industry to impose a punitive 4 per cent non-modvatable excise tax on non-motorised bicycles which add upto 12 per cent on the selling price of the common man's vehicle;

(b) whether far eastern countries like China, Japan, South Korea encourage the habit of cycling for better health and contain pollution in urban areas aggravated by motor vehicles; and

(c) whether the small scale units are exempted from such levy of excise tax total turn over being less than Rs. 1.00 crores units upsetting the revenue estimates of Government?

Credit to minority communities

3140. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked all the commercial banks to ensure that credit flows to the minority communities;

(b) if so, whether banks have shown lack of interest in doing so;

(c) whether Government had taken a policy decision in regard to providing banking finance to the members of the minority community in 1996; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for not following the directive by many banks?

Japanese funding for NTPC and MRTSP

3141. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and Japan in which Rs. 2,040 crore soft loan will be provided to India by Japan;

(b) if so, whether this loan will be utilised by India for power plants of NTPC and Mass Rapid Transport System Projects; and

(c) if so, the other projects on which Japan has agreed to provide help and assistance to India?

Janraksha insurance for rural people

3142. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Janraksha insurance to cover health aspects of rural people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any similar insurance scheme is under consideration for urban population covering both indoor and outdoor treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds for formation of SHG

3143. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 500 crore was given to NABARD for SHG formation in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the amount of the above actually spent in the year 2001-2002, State-wise; and

(c) the total quantum of money earned by women?

Tax cut on raw-materials for hardware sector

†3144. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hardware entrepreneurs have made a demand to provide concessions in tax on raw-materials and spare parts;

(b) if so, whether Government have so far considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not by when, the said demand is likely to be considered?

Effect of Indo-Pak relations on Economy

3145. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tension at Indo-Pak Border has an adverse effect on our economy;

(b) if so, whether many of our welfare programmes have been greatly affected; and

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

Budgetary nightmare for cancer patients

3146. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Indian Express', dated the 15th March, 2002, under the heading "Have some sympathy, Mr. Sinha-Budgeting nightmares for cancer patients"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Top tax defaulters

3147. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 221 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2000 and state the details of 100 top tax defaulters as on 31st March, 2001?

Involvement of States in social sector

3148. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the aims of the economic reforms is to withdraw the State from some economic activities in order to step up the expenditure and increase the State's involvement in social sector;

(b) if so, the increase in the various social sectors during the last three years with special reference to education and health;

(c) the details of the inter-state disparities; and

(d) the steps being taken to correct these disparities?

Y.V. Reddy Committee for review of small savings schemes

†3149. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1015 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2001 and state;

(a) whether Government propose to stop existing facilities on small savings schemes like fixed rates of interest and tax exemption; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Panel to study revenue loss

3150. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a panel to study the revenue loss arising out of the Value Added Tax (VAT) system; and

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference of the Committee?

Cess on crude oil production

†3151. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cess at the rate of Rs. 900 per tonne is being collected by Government on domestic crude oil production in the country;

(b) if so, when this cess was introduced and the amount of total collection from the cess till March, 2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this cess was imposed for the development and expansion of the petroleum sector; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard and the balance amount in this fund?

Levy on petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene

†3152. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of Government levy on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG in the country is 62%, 41%, 109% and 85% respectively;

(b) if not, the existing rate of levy on above items; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested the Ministry of Finance to reduce the rates of these levies; if so, what is Government's decision thereon?

Buy back of shares of MNCs

3153. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Multi National Companies (MNCs) have approached the Ministry of Finance for buy back of their shares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has allowed all MNCs for the same; and

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

Violation of norms for destroying currency notes

3154. SHRIN.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI destroys the spoiled currency notes by a special procedure without proper verification and violating the norms specified in the manual therefor;

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

(c) the number of centres maintained by the RBI for checking the notes before destruction;

(d) whether Government think that the special procedure satisfies all the relevant provisions of the manual relating to the destruction of currency notes; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Backlog of income tax refund in Delhi

3155. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the backlog of cases of refund of income tax in Delhi has been increasing at an alarming rate year after year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that refund cases are not settled for months together causing hardships to the pensioners in particular and others in general; and

(c) the number of cases for refund of IT pending with the Department in respect of Delhi/New Delhi IT assessee only as on 31st October, 2001 and the steps taken for their early disposal?

Excise duty on decoiling units of Iron and Steel segment

3156. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBEC has issued a circular dragging into excise net the decoiling Units of Iron and Steel segment;

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

(c) whether Iron and Steel processing Association has submitted representation against this Circular; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

Computerization of banks

3157. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Sector and Scheduled Commercial Banks which have computerised their business as per CVC guidelines;

(b) the number of Urban, Semi-urban and rural branches of these banks which have been computerised;

(c) whether Government have earmarked any amount for giving assistance to banks in computerization of their business;

(d) whether computerization has really cut down the time in providing services to customers;

(e) whether there is a general complaint that computerization of banks has not yielded desirable results in providing speedy and efficient services to customers; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Direct tax collection

3158. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for collection of direct and indirect taxes for the financial year 2001-2002;

(b) whether the targets have been achieved if not, the expected short fall in collection of revenue on account of direct and indirect taxes; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/propose to take to bridge the gap between target and actual collection of revenue;

(d) the details of industries which contributed less to the revenue; and

(e) the steps Government have taken to tone up the tax administration for better compliance and realisation of targets?

Slump in export growth rate

† 3159. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the first time in ten years the export growth rate has reached a negative level due to all round impact of economic slump;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the export growth rate has decreased to 1.86 per cent only as per the latest figures of April-July, 2001-2002 released by Government; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by Government to raise the level of export growth rate togetherwith the details thereof?

Permission for setting up private banks

3160. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has accorded permission for setting up two more private banks by business/industrial houses;

(b) whether our banking network has already penetrated into remotest part of the country; and

(c) whether Government would consider putting cap on the opening of new banks/branches, until we are able to clean up the present banking sector through a regulatory body?

Evasion of excise duty on globally funded projects

3161. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large-scale excise duty evasion has been detected by the Directorate General of Excise Investigation on goods supplied to globally funded projects/

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

institutions like UN, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, FAO, WHO and Asian Development Bank, etc.;

(b) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs has been sounded to this effect; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Central Excise authorities to unravel the racket?

Functions of Central Board of Excise and Customs

3162. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the functions and duties of the Central Board of Excise and Customs;

(b) whether a number of cases of corruption against officers of the board are reported in recent times; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to wind up such boards and execute their jobs in the Ministry itself?

LIC's special cell to settle death claims

3163. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation's Staff Union has demanded that the Corporation should introduce twelve hour business in two shifts and a special cell for doorstep service to settle death claims; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

Winding up of Central Board of Excise and Customs

3164. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for creation of a separate body like Central Board of Excise and customs;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance is in a position to handle the duties with a few experts; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curtail Government expenditure by winding up such bodies where corruption is frequently reported?

New norms for term lending companies

3165. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had decided to give a new norms for term lending companies;

(b) if so, what are the details of these categories for term lending; and

(c) to what extent it will be helpful for projects under implementation (PUIs)?

Balance of payment position

†3166. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual position of the balance of payment as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the balance of payment is in adverse condition; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Relaxation in income tax ceiling

†3167. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Unions have demanded relaxation in the Income-Tax ceiling;

(b) if so, whether Government have since considered their demand;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cut in PLR by SBI

3168. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India is cutting the PLR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the benefits/losses to the bank as well as its customers?

Pool of Independent Directors for banks

3169. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create an expert talent pool of independent directors to join various bank boards as recommended by a consultative group of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the pool of independent directors is likely to be created; and

(d) the steps taken to include experts from fields of Finance, Agriculture, Infrastructure, information technology in the proposed pool of independent directors?

Gold exchange

3170. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to set up Gold Exchange in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to create awareness in Investors to look at Gold as long term financial instrument?

Objectives of ARC

3171. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish Asset Reconstruction Corporation (ARC) of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main objectives of the proposed ARC;

(c) by when it will come into existence; and

(d) how far it will safeguard the interest of the public sector institutions in the country?

World Bank loan for power projects in Jharkhand

3172. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the power projects for which loan has been given by the World Bank in Jharkhand State;

(b) the terms and conditions of the World Bank while giving loan to these power projects;

(c) the quantum of power likely to be generated in the State after these projects are completed; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that funds are properly and timely utilised for this project only?

World Bank assistance for water supply in Maharashtra

3173. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for rural water supply and environmental sanitation in 16 Districts of Maharashtra with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have forwarded this proposal to the world Bank?

Drugs trade in capital

3174. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1595 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug market is still thriving in the Capital specially in Ambedkar colony near Nehru Place and heroin is available in abundance in Jhuggies in Lajpat Nagar Railway colony, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that drug market is flourishing with the active cooperation of police officials posted in those areas;

(c) the number of persons arrested for this illicit trade during the last two years; and

(d) whether action had been taken against the area police officials and if so, the details thereof?

Representation for unearthing black money

3175. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of States who presented their views before the Tenth Finance Commission regarding unearthing of black money in the country;

(b) the salient points raised by them; and

(c) what are the points Government have accepted and rejected togetherwith the reasons therefor?

Amount sanctioned by 11th Finance Commission to Tamil Nadu

3176. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total percentage of grant allocated to Tamil Nadu by the 11th Finance Commission out of the central aid;

(b) the basis of such allocation of funds;

(c) the amount allocated to other State *vis-a-vis* Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether Government receive regular representation for hike in volumes of sanction and if so, the details thereof?

Filing of Income-Tax returns by hospitals

3177. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to find out those private hospitals and nursing homes which have not filed their Income-Tax returns in different parts of the country including Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would provide details of the CAG Report with regard to non-filing of Income-Tax returns by such private hospitals and nursing homes?

**Inter-State Coordination Committee
on Narcotics**

3178. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seizures made by the enforcement agencies have clearly indicated that India has now become a producing country for heroin;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the efforts made by Government to curb opium drug trafficking; and

(c) the main decision taken at the Inter-State Coordination Committee meeting held at Narcotics Control Bureau on 23rd February, 2002?

Investment in Iranian Oil Companies

3179. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked Iranian Government to give their Public Sector Undertaking Oil Companies on equity sharing basis in the oil and gas sector; and

(b) if so, the response of Iran Government thereto?

Subsidies on gas and kerosene

3180. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidies on domestic cooking gas and kerosene had doubled from Rs. 7,480 crore to Rs. 14,200 crore in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the quantum of the subsidies attributable to cooking gas and to kerosene; and

(c) in what manner these subsidies have been brought down in 2001-2002?

Agreement between GAIL and NIOC

3181. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India and the National Iranian Oil Company have recently signed an agreement of cooperation;

(b) if so, the areas of cooperation to be covered under this agreement and the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to augment CNG supplies and availability in India?

New CNG stations

3182. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some new CNG stations in Delhi during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

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

(c) the time by which these CNG stations are likely to be set-up in the capital; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard so far?

Petrol pumps in Maharashtra

3183. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of petrol pumps have been allotted by the oil public sector units in Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details of the allotted petrol pumps, their location and the name of the allottees?

Vigilance cases

†3184. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the grade-wise number of officers/employees of his Ministry arrested by the Department of Vigilance/CBI on the charge of corruption, dishonesty and possessing of disproportionate assets during the last three years;

(b) whether any action has been taken against them by the Department of Vigilance/CBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of CNG in Tamil Nadu

3185. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to make CNG available for vehicles in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Employment opportunities for SCs/STs

3186. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote economic interest of SCs and STs in the field of sale, marketing, dealership/

distribution and also transportation, carry and forward of petroleum and natural gas products;

(b) whether any scheme has been chalked out by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps proposed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to create employment opportunities for SCs/STs and encourage them to come to mainstream of national life?

Oil trading and risk management desk of IOC

3187. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC proposes to set up an oil trading and risk management desk abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such decision?

Malpractices adopted by petroleum dealers

3188. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large scale malpractices such as adulteration, underweighing etc. are being done by the petrol pumps-LPG-Kerosene dealers as well as other dealers of petroleum products in the country; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to curb these malpractices?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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Study in Mahanadi basin

3189. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanadi basin is widely considered to have vast reserved of oil and gas in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has ever conducted a scientific study on it; and

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

Losses in purchase of Enron's shares

3190. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil fields of Mukta, Panna and Tapti has been explored successfully by M/s. Enron Ltd. with the help of ONGC;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Enron is now selling its stake of 30 percent to ONGC and other PSU refineries; and

(c) whether Government would lose crores of rupees in the deal and if so, the reasons therefor for buying the stake of Enron?

Safety of Indo-Iran gas pipeline

†3191. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposed gas pipe line project from Iran to India; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take for safety of the said gas pipe line as it would pass through Pakistan?

Cost of small size cylinder

3192. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have implemented its "Inprinciple" proposal to allow Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 Kg. LPG cylinders; and

(b) whether Government are going to price it so as to make such cylinders economical for the poorer sections of society?

Investment made in ex;oration of oil and gas

†3193. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether it is a fact that exploration of crude oil and natural gas reserves in being undertaken since decades in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by Government on exploration activities during the Nineties; and

(c) the total reserves of oil and natural gas which have been found in the country by the end of this decade?

Ex-refinery and selling price of petroleum products

†3194. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have ascertained the ex-refinery price and consumer selling price of petrol, diesel, kerosene, LPG and naphtha in the country;

(b) if so, what were these prices as on 1st April, 2002; and

(c) the reasons for such a huge difference in both the prices?

Exploration of oil and gas

†3195. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of production from the already-explored oil and natural gas reserves in our country has not been started so far;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of production being made from these reserves at present; and

(c) the reasons for not starting production from all these reserves so far?

Jatar Committee Report

†3196. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jatar Committee has since submitted its report to Government on the Gandhar oil well fire in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details of the inquiry report and whether Government have taken any action in this report so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, by when the action is proposed to be taken?

MoU between Iran and Pakistan on Indo-Iran Gas project

3197. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Islamabad to undertake a pre-feasibility study for proposed 20,600 kilometer Iran-India Gas pipeline;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what are the other details in this regard?

Additional gas requirement of Rajasthan

3198. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested M/s GAIL for additional gas of 5 lacs SCMD for a period of 15 years from October, 2002 from OIL/ONGC Wells around Ramgarh for the Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Station, as against supply of 2 lacs SCMD Gas for 10 years offered by M/s GAIL;

(b) if so, the reasons for requirement of additional gas;

(c) the availability of gas required with M/s GAIL; and

(d) what is Government's response to the Rajasthan Government's request?

Reconstitution of dealers in Delhi

3199. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the number of petrol pumps/LPG distributorship which are being run in Delhi under the Benami transactions;

(b) whether attempts are being made by oil corporations' officers to regularise them by way of reconstituting these dealership; and+

(c) by what time proper action shall be initiated against the officers' found responsible for this illegal Act?

Pricing policy of IBP

3200. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IBP has decided to follow an independent pricing policy, different from those of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, to what extent Government have accepted the IBP's request for following independence in pricing policy; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial for the country?

Reaction of LPG marketers on LPG subsidy

3201. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private LPG marketers have threatened to quit following Government's inability to implement policy regarding withdrawal of subsidy on LPG; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Allocation of more gas to states

3202. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of natural gas distribution and consumption marketed by the Oil and Gas companies, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat; and

(b) the measures being taken to provide more natural gas to the States, particularly to the backward areas in Gujarat?

Revision in rates of LPG

†3203. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when the rates of LPG have been increased during the last one year along with the reasons for increasing these rates frequently;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to reduce the rate of LPG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Acquisition of overseas oilfields by ONGC

3204. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to acquire oil fields abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

LPG dealership in rural areas

3205. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorship presently operating in Andhra Pradesh, Oil PSU wise;

(b) the number of distributors catering the consumers of semi-urban and rural areas of the State, companywise;

(c) whether the rural and far off areas of the State require more distributors; and

(d) if so, the action taken by each oil company in this regard?

Exploration of oil in Coastal Orissa

3206. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and OIL have major off-shore oil banks off the Orissa coast which happens to be on the very path traversed by millions of Olive Ridges for decades every year to come to Gahirmatha and lay eggs;

(b) whether a fact that NGOs involved in nature conservation have already written to his Ministry explaining the delicate nature of the predicament; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

Profit on sale of petroleum products

3207. SHRI C.O. POULSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the petroleum products gained (domestic & imports separately) and sold during the last three years;

(b) the details of the turnover, profit

incurred by Government during the above period alongwith the details of the allocation of profits;

(c) whether Government have noticed any decline in the consumption of these products during the last year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Mathura refinery

3208. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appearing in "The Indian Express" dated 6th March, 2002 under the heading "Sulphur decreases as fuel leaves Mathura refinery"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in the regard?

Closure of Oil Coordination Committee

3209. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to close down the Oil Coordination committee as a consequence of APM dismantling;

(b) if so, the number of officers and staff likely to become surplus and of those proposed to be absorbed;

(c) whether there will be corresponding reduction in the strength in oil companies if they are reverted back to their parent cadre public sector oil companies; and

(d) if not, the reasons for increasing the number and expenditure of public sector oil companies?

CNG fire cases

3210. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents of the vehicles run by CNG catching fire have increased over the months;

(b) if so, the details of mishaps in CNG run vehicles during the last one year;

(c) whether Government have carried out any study or evaluation on the causes for mishaps in CNG vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the safety measures taken for CNG vehicles?

Decline in foreign tourist and foreign exchange earnings

3211. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGAT RAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tourist traffic in India from all over the globe has decreased during the last six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign exchange earnings has also come down during this period;

(c) if so, the details of tourist arrivals to India and the foreign exchange earnings from them during the above period; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to boost the image of India in various part of the World?

Security cover for historical monuments

3212. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India have initiated steps to camouflage and provide other suitable precautionary security cover for important monuments of historical importance like the Taj Mahal, Humayun Tomb, etc., located especially in the more vulnerable regions of the country in case of any accidental fire from enemy fighter jets etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Holding of South Asia Tourism Meet

3213. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a South Asia Tourism Meet is going to be held in New Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the agenda of the meeting; and

(d) the purpose of organising this meet?

Refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites

3214. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted for refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites for the financial year 2001-2002, State-wise including Gujarat;

(b) the criteria for allotment of funds to the States;

(c) the details of the monuments/heritage sites refurbished during the last three years;

(d) the details of expenditure incurred in refurbishing of monuments/heritage site;

(e) whether any monuments/heritage site of Gujarat is also under consideration for the Union Government for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Tourism policy for Uttaranchal

†3215. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any tourism policy to boost tourism in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether government have formulated any scheme to develop less popular spots of the State like Chakrata, Almora, Kausani, Champavat and Pithoragarh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pending tourism projects

3216. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that over 3,000 projects sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan to improve conditions around tourists spots, 2,130 are still incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow pace of execution of projects; and

(c) the steps taken to develop integrated tourism circuits in order to boost tourism?

Integrated approach to tourism

3217. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce a comprehensive tourism policy as declared by the Prime Minister in his last Independence speech;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy; and

(c) in what manner the policy would address the co-ordination between the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Home etc., for an integrated approach to tourism?

Funds released for holding fairs and festivals in AP

3218. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are being provided to Andhra Pradesh for holding fairs and festivals in the State as measures of tourism promotion there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fairs and festivals promoted during the last three years, year-wise?

Development of tourism

†3219. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to take any specific steps for making tourism more attractive;

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

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

Additional Hotel Loans

3220. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the interest subsidy on additional hotel loan which was given to the hotels etc. by the Department of Tourism since the interest subsidy scheme was introduced;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the same is being done without issuing the Gazette of India notification;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) the number of claims of interest subsidy on additional loan are pending the Department of Tourism for a long time since 31st December, 2001; and

(e) the date by when these pending applications are likely to be cleared?

Rules for trade agents, tour operators and guides

3221. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any rules for travel agents, tour operators and guides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

Protection of Nanaji Peshwa monument in Gujarat

†3222. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of great heroes of the Indian independence struggle along with names of the places where their monuments are situated;

(b) the names of monuments out of these which have been accorded the status of national monuments;

(c) the names of monuments which have been badly damaged during the last three years; and

(d) the details of amount spent on repair and protection of damaged monument of

Nanaji Peshwa situated in Morbi (Gujarat)?

Villages attraction for foreign tourists

†3223. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make villages centre of attraction for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether government have taken any steps in this direction and the number of villages of Gujarat which have been included in the same; and

(c) if not, thereasons thereof?

Problems of tourists

3224. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Tourist pay through their use to visit India" which appeared in the Economic Times on 189th March, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report in order to boost the flow of tourist in the country?

Visa-on-arrival

3225. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism has proposed to launch visa-on-arrival for tourists from specified countries; and

(b) if so, what are these countries and the details of the proposal of visa-on-arrival?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

VRS in ITDC

3226. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ITDC has offered VRS to its Travel and Tours Division;

(b) whether it is a fact that the VRS scheme is refused to the staff of its Hotel Division; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Leasing of Dal Lake

3227. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allotment of central funds for clearing up the Dal Lake in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the quantum of amount released and spent year-wise;

(c) the total areas of the lake at the time of independence and how much it is now; and

(d) whether any area is leased out to private parties for making floating of garden?

Water to Kerala

3228. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the water share due to Kerala from the Parambikular-Aliyar river water agreement has not been allotted by the Tamil Nadu fully during the previous year;

(b) what is the water share due to Kerala from the above agreement per year;

(c) the allotted position during the previous year;

(d) the quantity of water allotted during the current year so far; and

(e) whether Government would insist Tamil Nadu to allot the actual share of river water to Kerala?

Financial assistance to irrigation projects in AP

3229. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of on-going irrigation projects, major, medium and minor projects of States which were provided central assistance under "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme";

(b) the total quantum of amount allocated under the scheme and money sanctioned to States as assistance on 31st March, 2001;

(c) the number of irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh which got assistance under the scheme; and

(d) the number of irrigation projects which have been completed and became operational under scheme, alongwith State-wise details thereof?

Implementation of CADP in AP

3230. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh for reclamation of waterlogged areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results achieved under CADP in the State so far?

Dependence on rains for irrigation of Land

†3231. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the agricultural land in the country depends on rainwater for irrigation;

(b) if so, the percentage of land dependent on rainwater for irrigation by the end of the year 2001; and

(c) the percentage of the land dependent on rain water for irrigation which is affected by excessive rain, average rain and low rain respectively?

Cost escalation of IGNP

3232. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimated cost and implementation schedule of the Indira Gandhi Nahar Pariyojana and the phase-

wise and sector-wise implementation of the project so far;

(b) the cost escalation suffered by the project and the extent and the reasons for delay;

(c) the plan-wise amount sanctioned for the canal project from the Central and State funds; and

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

Financial assistance for water supply and sanitation projects

†3233. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has given an assurance to India for providing financial assistance for some water supply and sanitation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where the said funds will be utilised alongwith the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th April, 2000
Chaitra 29, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
for Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(*Ministry-wise*)

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Civil Aviation</i> | : 3079. 3080. 3081. 3082. 3083. 3084. 3085. 3086. 3087. 3088. 3089. 3090. 3091. 3092. 3093. 3094. 3095. 3096. 3097. 3098. 3099. 3100. 3101. 3102. 3103. |
| <i>Commerce and Industry</i> | : 3104. 3105. 3106. 3107. 3108. 3109. 3110. 3111. 3112. 3113. 3114. 3115. 3116. 3117. 3118. 3119. 3120. 3121. 3122. 3123. 3124. |
| <i>Finance</i> | : 3125. 3126. 3127. 3128. 3129. 3130. 3131. 3132. 3133. 3134. 3135. 3136. 3137. 3138. 3139. 3140. 3141. 3142. 3143. 3144. 3145. 3146. 3147. 3148. 3149. 3150. 3151. 3152. 3153. 3154. 3155. 3156. 3157. 3158. 3159. 3160. 3161. 3162. 3163. 3164. 3165. 3166. 3167. 3168. 3169. 3170. 3171. 3172. 3173. 3174. 3175. 3176. 3177. 3178. |
| <i>Petroleum and Natural Gas</i> | : 3179. 3180. 3181. 3182. 3183. 3184. 3185. 3186. 3187. 3188. 3189. 3190. 3191. 3192. 3193. 3194. 3195. 3196. 3197. 3198. 3199. 3200. 3201. 3202. 3203. 3204. 3205. 3206. 3207. 3208. 3209. 3210. |
| <i>Tourism and Cultural</i> | : 3211. 3212. 3213. 3214. 3215. 3216. 3217. 3218. 3219. 3220. 3221. 3222. 3223. 3224. 3225. 3226. 3227. |
| <i>Water Resources</i> | : 3228. 3229. 3230. 3231. 3232. 3233. |