RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Tuesday, the May 23, 2006/Jyaistha 2, 1928 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions — 155

International services from non-metro cities

3951. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of non-metro cities linked to international destinations now; and
- (b) how many more such cities will be added in the near future?

Air services to Varanasi and Kathmandu

†3952. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether flight from New Delhi to Varanasi and Kathmandu has been discontinued;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to restore the same?

Fire at Delhi airports

3953. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether breaking out of fires at Delhi airports has become a common phenomenon;
- (b) if so, the number of times such a fire broke out on the terminal buildings of the airport during the last one year;
- (c) the details of the losses suffered, flights delayed and persons killed/injured;
- (d) the persons who are responsible for such negligence and create dangers and the action being taken/taken by Government during the last one year; and
- (e) the safety arrangements provided to avoid such fire accidents in future?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Air services to major cities

- †3954. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether all the major cities of the country have been connected with air services:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the names of political organizations and people's representatives which have requested for the construction of airports in the country during the last three years and till date; and
- (e) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Compensation to passengers for flight delays

- 3955. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that recently a European Court has given a ruling about guaranteeing passenger compensation due to flight delays or cancellations without making any discrimination between a normal-fare airlines or low-cost airlines;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry will also make it mandatory for all airlines (including low-cost) that in case of cancellations or delayed flights, passengers are entitled for due compensation according to the usual international conventions/practices; and
- (c) whether the nature of compensations, either hotel accommodation or refreshment etc. will be worked out in consultation with airlines operating in India and the details thereof which are publicized?

Amount spent on airport modernisation

- 3956. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) the progress of the modernisation and privatisation process of Delhi and Mumbai airports;
- (b) what amount has already been spent in the process; and
- (c) the target dates of the completion of both the airports?

Parking problem at airport

3957. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Airports Authority of India are aware of the acute parking problems being faced by passengers at the Delhi and Mumbai airports;
- (b) whether the authority has the requisite expertise to resolve such passenger related problems;
- (c) if so, the steps contemplated to resolve the problem; and
- (d) whether Government propose to engage experts/organization in the private sector to resolve the problem at the major airports, in case the Authority is unable to cope with the situation and if so, the details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Strike by employees

3958. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that Air Corporation Employees Union had threatened to go for an indefinite strike if their demands are not fulfilled;
- (b) if so, the demands of the employees union;
- (c) whether Government have initiated steps for negotiated settlement;
 - (d) if so, the details of the same; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Wage agreement with IA employees

3959. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of turnover and profits of the Indian Airlines for the last three years;
- (b) whether the settlement/agreement on Productivity Linked Incentives (PLI) can be considered as Wage Agreement;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if not, by when the negotiation process for the next Wage Agreement will start?

Cess on air travellers

3960. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy cess on the air travellers to develop smaller airports across the country;

- (b) if so, by when the said cess is likely to be imposed; and
- (c) the likely effect of the cess on the users of low cost airlines?

Priority on aircraft landing

- 3961. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that IAF aircrafts have to wait for signals to land and fly as the airport give priority to private civil aircrafts;
- (b) if so, the reasons for preference to give clearance to civil aircrafts over the IAF aircrafts; and
- (c) what action Government plan to take with the Airports Authority of India to ensure that a balance is struck and IAF planes going on important duty/operation or VVIP assignment be given priority in the matter?

Flying institute at Hyderabad

- 3962. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy, set up new academies in other parts of the country and also enhance the age of pilots in view of the growth in the aviation sector;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to setting up of an Uran academy at Hyderabad since there is no such Academy in Southern Region and Hyderabad is an ideal location for such academy;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of flying training institutes and flying clubs in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

Restoration of air services

- †3963. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have cancelled flight from New Delhi to Agra, Khujraho and Varanasi;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to restore the said flight keeping in view the foreign tourists visiting in this sector?

National Civil Aviation Grid

3964. SHRI C. PERUMAL; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up National Civil Aviation Grid; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of Patna airport

- †3965. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that since Patna airport does not have required length of the runway which leads to technical difficulties in landing and take-off in summer season;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that having considered the possibility of increasing the length of the Patna airport, a couple of years back, the Ministry had prepared a plan which has not yet materialised; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

National carriers share in air traffic

3966. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth percentage of domestic passenger air traffic during the last three years;
- (b) the percentage of air traffic that has gone to the national air carriers out of that;
- (c) the reasons for the large chunk of the increased air traffic going the private carriers; and
- (d) the steps taken to give competitive edge to the national air carriers?

Flying clubs in Delhi

- †3967. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of flying/gliding clubs in NCR, Delhi and other States, as on date;
- (b) the respective year of their setting up alongwith the number of planes they possess alongwith other details thereof;
- (c) the amount of subsidy provided to each during the last three years, year-wise and club-wise; and
- (d) the details of achievement of these flying/gliding clubs?

Sops to private airlines

3968. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether is it proposed to give sops to airlines for linking metropolitan cities and small towns;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the response of private airlines to the proposal?

Withdrawal of facilities at airports

- 3969. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken not to improve any passenger facilities at the present domestic terminal of IGIA and Mumbai till new airports are built;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the AAI has decided to stop construction of new facilities at the existing terminals at IGIA and Mumbai;
- (c) the details of steps proposed by AAI in withdrawing from all the interim improvement contemplated;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that there will be reduced AAI presence at all domestic terminals; and
- (e) the details of such decisions taken recently by the AAI?

Upgradation of Dabolin airport

- 3970. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) the total number of flights both national and international which land at Dabolin airport;
- (b) the total number of passengers who arrive in Goa, daily both by domestic and international flights, season-wise;
- (c) the facilities which Dabolin airport is lacking in to make it an average international airport; and
- (d) the plans proposed by Government for the upgradation of Dabolin airport and the cost involved thereon?

Information on delay in departure of aircrafts

- 3971. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of state of affairs at domestic airports in particularly the departure terminal at New Delhi and Mumbai;
- (b) what adequate space and gates for departures has not been kept; if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether delay in the departure is not intimated to those who have mentioned their Phone numbers, if so, the reasons therefor?

Merger of two private air carrier operators

- 3972. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the recent merger of two private air carrier operators together controlling about 50 per cent of the air travel industry market will alter the industry dynamics and lead to cartelisation;
- (b) whether the new company has obtained all clearances from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation; and
- (c) whether the reported merger comes under the purview of the Competition Commission?

Permission to Government officers for accepting directorship of private companies

- 3973. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether it is a fact that Government

have permitted Government officers and officers working in Government funded institutions for accepting the Directorship of private companies;

- (b) if so, what are the rules in this regard; and
- (c) how many officers have accepted to serve on the Board of private companies and how much remuneration have they received for attending the Board meetings?

Amendment to Competition Act, 2002

3974. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bill to amend Competition Act, 2002 will be placed for Parliamentary approval in the Budget Session, 2006; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that mergers and acquisitions are escaping the desirable scrutiny (Jet Sahara and Holcim-Ambuja Cements) because of the delay in the constitution of full Competition Commission of India (CCI)?

Simplification of Fringe Benefit Tax rules

3975. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have simplified the FBT rules recently for the convenience of taxpayers;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether Government also propose to launch the single window system for collection of excise, corporte tax and income tax in major metros from this year;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the purpose of launching such single window; and
- (f) how it would be helpful to the tax payers?

Income Tax concession to Dhabol/ Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd.

3976. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) approximate amount involved in extending concession to Dhabol/Ratnagiri Gas and Power Ltd. through amendment of section 80-IA of Income Tax Act:
- (b) whether any waiver on customs duty claims and capital gain tax was granted; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with total amount involved?

Bank branches in NER

3977. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various bank branches set up by Nationalized, private and foreign banks in the rural areas of NER; and
- (b) what steps are being taken by Government to open the abvoe branches in the rural areas of the region and the number of rural branches proposed to be set up during the current years?

NPAs of banks

3978. SHRIS.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of debts which have become NPAs with the Banks and Financial Institutions as on 31st March, 2006 showing the number of accounts falling in the gross debt volume range of Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh, Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore, Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 3 crore, Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 5 crore, and Rs. 5 crore upto Rs. 10 crore; and
- (b) the details of NPAs in the respective categories as (a) above as on 31st March 2004, 31st December 2004, 31st March 2005 and 31st December 2005?

Utilization of funds for special projects

3979. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount sanctioned by the foreign agencies for special projects during the last three years;
- (b) whether it is fact that a large amount of financial assistance from foreign agencies have been utilized for salary/administrative expenses by the State Governments;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps Government are taking for proper utilization of these funds granted for special projects?

Review of increase in interest rate for housing loans

†3980. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has

reviewed the increase in interest rate for housing loans and loans disbursed in other sectors and whether Government are considering to issue fresh guidelines to the banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Full capital account convertibility

3981. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a committee has been set up by RBI to prepare a road map for full capital account convertibility;
- (b) if so, what are the terms of reference and deadline to submit the report;
- (c) what are the reasons for not implementing the Tarapore Committee Report 1997 recommendations; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that the eminent economists Jagdish Bhagawati argued that India and China escaped the Asian financial crisis only because they did not have the capital account convertibility?

Fraudulent cases of fictitious invoices

- 3982. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Intelligence agency has unearthed major case of Cenvat running into crore of rupees;
- (b) if so, whether in a nation-wide operation on 8th March, DGCEI raided the office and factory premises of Chandigarh based pharmaceutical concern

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and large number of manufacturers and dealers in Ghaziabad and Noida;

- (c) whether investigation conducted revealed that Ind Swift Group of Companies has taken credit worth crores of rupees on the basis of invoices of fictitious non-existent or non-registered manufacturers and dealers;
- (d) whether detailed report had been submitted by DGCEI; and
- (e) if so, action taken against those held responsible?

Concern of trade unions on banking activities

3983. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Trade Unions are concerned with the changing trend lines, outsourcing of activities, disinvestment in Public Sector Banks, etc. in banking activities; and
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken to address their concern?

Percentage of GDP in black money

3984. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the percentage of GDP in black money in India in 2006;
- (b) whether it is a fact that if this black money is taxed, then Government can earn more than Rs. 12 lakh crores revenue per annum;
- (c) whether Government have any plans or mechanisms to unearth black money and tax the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and measures it plans to undertake?

Uniformity in VAT rates

3985. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether VAT rates are not uniform in all States even after 10 months after their implementation;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to bring uniformity in VAT rates?

Training of bank employees

3986. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any training facilities for the Public Sector Bank employees for increasing awareness of upcoming New Age Computing Banking Technology and most importantly Security of Information Assets, Cyber Laws etc.; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Pending cases of compassionate appointment in banks

3987. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of cases pending before the Nationalised Banks for appointment on compassionate basis as on date;

- (b) if so, the details thereof Bank-wise and place-wise; and
- (c) by when a final decision in regard to these cases is likely to be taken?

Loans to poor farmers

- †3988. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to give loans to the poor farmers through banks;
- (b) whether farmers are unable to repay the loan amount as agriculture work is nonprofitable; and
- (c) if so, whether there is any scheme under consideration to provide financial assistance to farmers in place of loan?

Non payment of dues by BCCI

- 3989. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the huge earning sports board in the Country, BCCI had not paid any outstanding dues of taxes of Rs. 361 crore since the last three years;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto: and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for recovering the tax money from the BCCI;
- (d) whether Government are observing BCCI's financial decisions as there has been lot of criticisms going on about the financial misappropriation; and
- (e) if so, what are Government's views and response thereto?

Exemption of imported vegetable oil from Sri Lanka

- †3990. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether vegetable oil imported from Sri Lanka is exempted from duty under the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement;
- (b) whether it is adversely affecting the vegetable oil produced by Indian Vegetable Oil Industry and on the revenue of the Central Government; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to rectify it?

Central fund for welfare of disabled people

- 3991. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Supreme Court created a central fund for the welfare of disabled people under the chairmanship of Comptroller and Auditor General, wherein over Rs. 723 crores would be deposited annually from the money illegally accumulated by Banks by rounding off interest rates payable by borrowers;
- (b) whether Supreme Court also directed each Bank to contribute Rs. 50 lakhs annually in this fund; and
- (c) the details of schemes implemented and amounts released so far towards the welfare of disabled people through this Central Corpus Funds?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Corruption in sanctioning of loans by banks

3992. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that most of the loans are sanctioned by commercial, regional, rural and co-operative banks in the country on bribe basis;
- (b) whether the World Bank and National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have conducted any study in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by Government to check such corruption?

Exemption of service tax to Punjab Exservicemen Corporation

3993. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Punjab has taken up the demand of Punjab Ex-Servicemen Corporation for exemption from service tax for the security services rendered by them for security related job;
- (b) whether Government Departments/ PSUs outsource their security manpower through tender system, in which PESCO it find difficult to compete, owing to higher rates quoted by them due to applicability of service tax, whereas the small security operators having turn-over of upto Rs. 4 lakhs are exempted from such tax; and
- (c) whether the benefit of exemption from service tax is already being given to Central Police Paramilitary Force like

CRPF and CISF and if not, the reasons therefor?

Refinancing Central Co-operative Banks by NABARD

3994. DR. M.S. GILL: SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that of the estimated aggregate realistic loaning programme for all eligible Central Cooperative Banks against PACS for short term refinance for seasonal agricultural operations, NABARD restricts the refinance to only 30 per cent;
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal from the Government of Punjab to raise the quantum of refinance by NABARD to meet the requirements of the Central Cooperative Banks for achieving the goal of doubling the flow of credit in the next three years; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

World Bank funds for health projects

3995. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that World Bank has upheld approximately 1 billion \$ funding for health projects;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether his Ministry has written to all State Governments and Central Departments to ensure complete transparency and integrity in awarding contracts;

- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the World Bank has issued any deviations from the established procedure contained in the guidelines;
- (f) if so, the details of guidelines thereof; and
- (g) the further action taken by Government to complete the health projects with the World Bank funding?

Loans provided to medium and small farmers

†3996. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of percentage of bank loans provided to medium and small farmers and to the poor during the last three years;
- (b) the details of non-payment during the last three years and the amount remained with Government as bad debt;
- (c) the timely repaid loan amount out of the loan amount of more than 10 lakh alongwith the details of the loan amount gone as bad debt;
- (d) whether Government are making special effort for early realization of the disbursed loans and the results thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government have taken to see to it that the poor get loans early without any difficulty?

Imposition of service tax

3997. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the rationale behind imposition of service tax and by whom it is intended to be borne;
- (b) what is the reason for keeping single rate of service tax for all types of services, if goods can be taxed at different rates under VAT; and
- (c) whether the services provided by organized sector like telecom, banking, railways/transport where the availers of services have no option, can be fixed at low/nominal rates and the 12 per cent slab be applied only on services availed by the elite and well off?

Reduction in time period for deposit of service tax

3998. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently reduced the time period of deposit of service tax from the 15th of the month/quarter to the 5th of the next month/quarter in case of firms/companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor:
- (c) whether Government are aware that particularly small firms find it difficult to consolidate their accounts and pay tax by the 5th of the quarter when generally out of these five days one or two are holidays;
- (d) if so, the remedial steps proposed; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Income Tax survey of windmills and equipment suppliers owners

3999. SHRI AJAY MAROO: SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax department has recently conducted surveys on owners of windmills and equipment suppliers on information that they were claiming undue depreciation;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken against the culprits?

New guidelines relating to credit cards

- 4000. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the RBI has issued new guidelines and rules relating to credit cards;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how far will this help to control harassment now being experienced by the credit card holders?

Raising of funds from global markets

- 4001. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian companies have raised Rs. 75,000 crores from global markets in 2005;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this trend will persist in 2006 as well;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that there is a strong foreign appetite for Indian assets and investors are seeing value in Indian companies; and
- (e) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to further boost this trend?

Rebate in excise duty to Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

4002. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Industry has requested Government to provide rebate in excise duty to the under developed States such as Orissa, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Industry has also requested for Income Tax exemption and other financial relief to the corporate houses in these States for their healthy growth; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof with an action plan of the Central Government to consider these proposals in a time-bound manner to improve the economy of the above regions?

Law to deal with Hawala operators

4003. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the militants and other underworld Mafia getting money through Hawala is on the increase;
- (b) whether there is any law to deal with Hawala operators who arrange funds of unlawful organisations;
- (c) what action Government are likely to take by making stringent law to deal with exclusively with Hawala operators and financiers of militant organisations due to inadequacy of present law;
- (d) whether such law will also ensure that money routed through foreign countries

- to NGOs in the country is not used for militant activities; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Amendment of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares Scheme, 1993

- 4004. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Economic Affairs has amended the issue of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares (Through Depository Receipt Mechanism) Scheme, 1993 *vide* Press Notes dated 31st August, 2005 and 31st March, 2006 in regard to floating of GDR/ADR/FCCB issues by unlisted companies etc.; and
 - (b) if so, what are the details thereof?

Availing of LTC by Central Government employees for Srinagar by air

- 4005. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have allowed Central Government employees to avail LTC to Srinagar by air;
- (b) whether it is a fact that most of the Central Government employees have not availed the opportunity due to non-availability of seats in Indian Airlines flights in the months of May and June, 2006;
- (c) if so, whether Government propose to extend LTC facility by air to Srinagar for some more months;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would extend such facility to North-Eastern States also?

Collection of money by levying education cess

- 4006. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the amount Government have so far collected by levying 2 per cent education cess since it was introduced, State-wise:
- (b) whether the accumulated money is being used for the primary education or otherwise; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Guidelines for disbursement of educational loans

- 4007. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there are guidelines issued by the Ministry for disbursement of educational loans for study in India and abroad: and
- (b) what are the securities demanded by the banks for sanctioning educational loans?

Educational loans for students

- 4008. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) how much amount has totally been disbursed as educational loans for students who have opted to pursue courses of study abroad in the last academic year; and
- (b) what are the courses of study for which loans were availed by students?

Trade deficit

4009. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the trade deficit has widened and causing concern when compared to the previous two years;
- (b) if so, the details of trade deficit in comparative figures;
- (c) whether Government are taking stock of our oil need and ramp up FDI instead of depending on FIIs;
- (d) if so, the efforts made in this direction;
- (e) whether Government are taking efforts that exports remain at about 15 per cent of GDP; and
- (f) if so, the present status in this direction?

SEBI's investigations into IPO scam

- 4010. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that several Depository Participants (DPs), stock broking firms and banks have been found to be involved in cornering of shares of companies which made Initial Public Offers (IPOs) by fraudulent means;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether SEBI and RBI has conducted investigations into the matter and ordered from time to time ban/penalty on several entities;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether SEBI on April 28, 2006 had to revise its order of preceding day imposing ban on certain entities; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Recommendations of fifth Central Pay Commission

- 4011. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission included reduction in number of personnel;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of reduction achieved in each category, year-wise and grade of personnel so far;
- (d) the details of the sanctioned strength *vis-a-vis* total number of employees as on 1st April 1998, 2003, 2004 and 2005;
- (e) whether fresh recruitment in various non-gazetted categories are stopped completely;
 - (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) findings of review carried out, if any, of the status of implementation of the FPC recommendations about reduction in number of employees?

Banking principles and policies based on Islamic lines

- 4012. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has evolved banking principles and policies along Islamic lines;
- (b) if so, what are the financial products which RBI has approved which fits into traditional Islamic banking principles;
- (c) whether RBI held any consultations in this regard; and
- (d) the details of such consultations done by RBI?

Formation of high power committee on Volcker Committee Report

- 4013. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a high power committee was formed some time back to look into the issues relating to Volcker Committee Report;
- (b) if so, by when the report of the committee is likely to be submitted to Government; and
- (c) whether Government propose to lay the findings of the said committee on the Table of the House?

Use of bank deposits for speculative purposes

- 4014. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether according to Chief Executive of Indian Banks' Association, bank deposits are being cannibalised by mutual funds and other attractive instruments; and
- (b) whether the present surge in sensex is due to speculative market trend?

Participatory notes for encouraging FII flows

- 4015. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Expert Group on encouraging FII flows and checking the vulnerability of capital markets to speculative flows has recommended that Participatory Notes should be allowed;
- (b) whether RBI representative in the said group submitted a dissent note on this issue;
 - (c) whether Government have taken any

decision on allowing Participatory Notes so far; and

(d) if so, on what basis?

Social and rural obligations of private insurance companies

- 4016. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) how IRDA ensures, through IRDA Regulations, 2002, the social and rural obligations of private insurance companies in the country;
- (b) the number of people, approximately in the rural areas covered by the private insurance companies during the last five years, year-wise, companywise and State-wise;
- (c) the number of people, approximately, in the rural areas covered by LIC and other public sector insurance companies during the last five years, yearwise, company-wise and State-wise;
- (d) whether IRDA has issued any regulations on micro insurance in rural areas for weaker sections of the society; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in irrigation tax

- 4017. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that certain State Governments, including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have raised many-fold the irrigation tax per acre leviable on farmers;
- (b) if so, whether Government have issued any broad guidelines to State Governments about State-levies and taxes imposed on farmers, to help the farmers out of the financial and tax-burden and to

protect them against situations leading them to commit suicides: and

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

Lending to States by NABARD

4018. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the lending of NABARD in different States and Union Territories in the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;
- (b) the amount lent by NABARD in favour of Government undertakings during these years; and
- (c) the target of Government to provide loans through NABARD?

Assessment of functioning of Public and Private Sector Banks

4019. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has made any assessment of the functioning of both the public sector and private sector banks in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the deposits mobilised by them alongwith the percentage of increase/decrease thereof;
- (c) whether it is also fact that work culture and professionalism in private banks has resulted in far more efficiency and profits in them than the public sector banks; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken thereon including strict code of conduct, work culture and professionalism for the employees of public sector banks?

Appointment of auditors in banks

4020. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Public Sector Banks have been allowed to appoint auditors directly instead of routing through Reserve Bank of India:
- (b) whether auditors have expressed their apprehensions against this; and
- (c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Outsourcing for rationalising operational costs by banks

4021. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several Nationalised Banks are increasingly using outsourcing for rationalising operational costs by avoiding wasteful expenditure;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have issued any guidelines or direction to all Nationalised Banks for managing risks arising from such outsourcing activities in the country effectively; and
 - (d) if so, what are the details thereof?

Opening of closed co-operative banks in Gujarat

†4022. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to open the closed co-operative banks in Gujarat in the interest of workers and the middle class;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Writing off of bank losses

- 4023. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to write off the accumulated losses of many Nationalised Banks;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the total amount of losses of the Nationalised Banks written off by Government and what are the reasons therefor?

Expansion of economy

- 4024. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether US, China and India have agreed to expand economy by 2020;
- (b) whether, according to a study report released by the Economist Intelligence Unit, a sizeable growth in global economic output over next 15 years, with US, China and India accounting for more than 50 per cent of all new growth; and
- (c) whether more than 471 million net new workers will enter global workforce with India accounting for a remarkable 30 per cent i.e. 142.4 million, China will account for 65 million and US with 12.5 million?

Report of Investment Commission

- 4025. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Investment Commission constituted by the PM under the Chairmanship of Tata, presented its report to the PM in March, 2006;
- (b) if so, what are the main points of the report;

- (c) whether Government have considered its recommendations; and
- (d) if so, what are the steps being taken to implement them?

Amendment of terms and conditions for granting loan to farmers

- 4026. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of the Central Government to amend the terms and conditions of farmers loans for the benefits of the farmers particularly to save them from committing suicide;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be introduced;
- (c) whether the farmers shall be allowed to pay the instalment of the loan only after the sale of the crop and are in a position to make the payment of the loan; and
- (d) whether the farmers shall be exempted to pay the instalment of the loan in case, if there is flood, hailstorm, drought or otherwise and the interest thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Extension of air travel facility on LTC to Government employees

- 4027. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Central Government are favourably considering to extend the air travel facility on the LTC to the Central Government employees;
- (b) whether Government are also favourably considering the rail/bus travel facility to the retired Central Government employees, after 8 years of the date of retirement of an individual; and

(c) if so, by when a favourable decision is expected to be taken in favour of the retired Government employees and what terms and conditions are expected therefor?

Non-refund of security papers by Punjab and Sind Bank Ltd.

4028. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punjab and Sind Bank Ltd. have not returned the security papers like Power of Attorney, Sale Deed etc. of guarantors even after the full payment of loan amount;
- (b) if so, how many such cases are pending for more than one year in Delhi office of PSB;
- (c) whether some complaints in this regard have been received from guarantors; and
- (d) if so, what steps the bank is contemplating to release the security papers of guarantor immediately?

Confidentiality of account holders of banks

4029. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that banks in the country, particularly in the metropolitan cities are providing details of bank accounts of those having huge balances to their credit to other banks/companies who offer free credit/debit cards and other schemes to them, the information of which may be used by undesirable elements including terrorists;
- (b) if so, whether Government/RBI propose to issue strict directions to banks

not to indulge in illegal and unethical practices and to maintain strict confidentiality of account holders; and

(c) if so, by when, such instructions are likely to be issued?

Honouring of third party transaction by insurance companies

4030. SHRI MANOHAR GAJANAN JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether insurance companies do not honour third party insurance;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority has issued any order to insurance companies to honour third party insurances;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation for social sectors of tribal areas

- 4031. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the yearly allocation of financial assistance on social and infrastructure is sectors biased towards developed districts and States of the country rather than to the poorest tribal districts, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) what is the total financial allocation for social sector of the tribal areas i.e. Simdega and Gumla of Jharkhand for the last 3 years, district-wise, block-wise and year-wise?

Loans to tribals in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh

- 4032. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the loans provided by banks to the tribals in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is very poor; and
- (b) if so, what is being done to improve the situation?

Withdrawal of bonus payable on post office term deposits

- 4033. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that bonus payable on post office term deposits has been withdrawn with effect from 13th February, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) steps taken to encourage small savings and make it more attractive for its significant contribution towards economic growth?

Reduction in funds for revival of sick PSUs

- 4034. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government's concern for revival of sick PSUs has grown lukewarm with heavy reduction in plan allocation for 2006-07;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the targets set for revival of sick PSUs during 2006-07 and funds allocated for the same?

Resources for revival of PSEs

4035. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

- Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of PSEs which were recommended for revival by BRPSE and how many of them have been cleared by Government till April, 2006;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the revival as recommended by BRPSE focuses largely on the financial reconstruction, if so, what would be the aggregate cost of revival of the PSEs proposed by the BRPSE;
- (c) how Government propose to generate resources to finance such revivals; and
- (d) whether the BRPSE recommendations also oblige the respective PSEs to generate funds through internal resources, if so, to what extent and what are the suggested internal resources?

Visit of Chinese delegation to HCL

4036. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese company delegation has visited the Rupnarayanpur factory of Hindustan Cables Ltd., recently;
- (b) if so, whether it is related to the revival of HCL;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the purpose of the said visit; and
- (e) the action taken by Government to revive the HCL?

Funds for developmental projects

4037. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed by his Ministry in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various Centrally assisted schemes in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;
- (c) whether the money allocated for various schemes and projects are utilized fully; and
- (d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Promotion of small cars

4038. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are planning to make India a hub for small cars;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to achieve success in this regard?

Value assessment of land with PSEs

†4039. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 455 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2005 and state:

(a) when the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises was constituted with a view to revamp

Government sector enterprises and to make future recommendations alongwith the details of its jurisdiction;

- (b) the enterprises of Government sector incurring loss at present alongwith the reasons of their incurring losses in each case:
- (c) the residual land of Government enterprises in respect of which value assessment has been made; and
- (d) by when the value assessment of the residual land will be made and the details thereof?

Public Sector Enterprises in Uttaranchal

4040. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Central Public Sector Enterprises functioning in Uttaranchal;
- (b) the economic status of each of the PSUs in the State;
- (c) the efforts proposed to be made to revive the Central PSUs in the State;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the number of such PSUs set up in Uttaranchal is very less compared with other States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Lock-out in public sector units

4041. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector companies which have faced lock-outs or strikes in the last three years;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the details of the companies which are found to be chronically sick;
- (c) whether Government will take the help of private industries to turn around companies that have potential for revival;
- (d) the details of the companies which have been referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE);
- (e) whether the Board has advised Government on disinvestments/closure/sale of any of these companies; and
 - (f) if so, the details of those companies?

Revision in royalty rates

- †4042. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have revised the royalty rates on oil and natural gas;
 - (b) if so, when and to what extent; and
- (c) the rate at which royalty is being given to the State Governments at present by it?

Response to NELP-VI

- †4043. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) the response of various companies with regard to the tenders given for the proposed block under NELP-VI;
- (b) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have also been invited to participate in this sector;
- (c) if so, the details of the said scheme and the expected benefits thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to ensure that the companies making profit from this sector plough back a lion's share of it in the country itself?

Rehabilitation of farmers

- †4044. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government provide any job to the families of those farmers whose well are acquired by it for oil extraction;
 - (b) if so, the rules in this regard; and
- (c) the number of people provided with jobs under these rules and number of families still deprived of such job facility?

Requirement of petroleum products

- 4045. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) the percentage of increase in the price of each of the petroleum products during the last two years;
- (b) the percentage of increase of petroleum products requirement during the last two years, for each product; and
- (c) the steps taken to arrest the trend of increasing the price of petroleum products very often?

ONGC's training institute at Goa

- 4046. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the ONGC has a training institute in Goa;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the activities undertaken by it;
- (c) the number of personnel trained so far;
 - (d) the nature of courses conducted; and
- (e) the details of specific achievements, if any?

Asset offices in Gujarat

4047. SHRIPRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of asset office in Gujarat;
- (b) the number of primary schools which are run within the ONGC colonies in Gujarat; and
- (c) how many shop establishments are provided to business men on retail basis, asset-wise in Gujarat?

LPG connections in Uttaranchal

4048. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Uttaranchal population being served by LPG as on 31st March 2006;
- (b) by when entire population in cities, towns, villages and far-flung areas of Uttaranchal are proposed to be served with LPG;
- (c) whether Government propose to give some concession in the gas cylinders to those weaker families in the State; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reduction in cost of production

4049. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that private oil companies like Reliance etc. are selling petroleum products at low cost than the public sector undertakings;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons of high cost of production of public sector undertakings;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to cut down the cost of production?

Loss of Indian Oil Corporation on sales

4050. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Indian Oil is losing Rs. 80 crores per day on sales;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons that Private Oil Companies are making profit and the Indian Oil is bearing losses; and
- (d) the positive steps Government are taking in this regard?

Price rise of crude oil in international market

†4051. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of price-rise of crude oil in the international market during the recent months, the Indian Oil Corporation is incurring heavy losses due to not increasing its prices in domestic market:

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the percentage of price rise of crude oil in the international market during this period; and
- (c) what is the percentage of burden, being borne by the Indian Oil Corporation thereby?

New gas and oil discoveries

- 4052. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of new gas and oil fields discovered in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether any fund provision is kept for deep study on oil/mineral deposits in the country particularly in North East Region; and
- (c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for exploitation of oil and gas reserve areas in the country?

Poor management of ONGC

- 4053. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is not able to properly manage companies like the MRPL and other acquisition;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that after the initial attention given to MRPL, ONGC has not given its due attention and investments, etc.;
- (c) whether ONGC loss interest immediately after the initial publicity about new acquisitions;

- (d) what steps will be taken by Government to ensure that there is a longer attention span by top management of ONGC on its various acquisition and investments:
- (e) the reasons behind this short attention syndrome on part of ONGC; and
- (f) the corrective measures proposed in this regard?

Commercial production of CBM in Damodar valley

- †4054. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the present status of the research work of coal bed methane in the Damodar river valley in Jharkhand;
- (b) by when the commercial use of methane is likely to be commenced; and
- (c) whether Government propose to allow private sector to convert coal bed methane into CNG and for its marketing?

Risks involved in global expansion

- 4055. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the India and China have expressed concern over the risks to global expansion emanating from the surge in oil prices in the international markets and the consequent growing economic balances:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken to remove such roadblocks?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Consumption of petroleum products

4056. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the domestic production, import and internal consumption of petroleum and allied products in the country during the last five years, year-wise and product-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that prices of crude oil is increasing in the international market;
 - (c) if so, the details in this regard;
- (d) whether Government are considering to hike the prices of petroleum, LPG, diesel, kerosene, etc., to compensate the increased outflow of exchange on import of these products; and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Funding for pipeline project

4057. SHRI DARA SINGH: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

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

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to get the \$4.2 billion Iran gas pipeline take off beginning next year;
- (b) whether any cut off date fixed for this 2700 kilometre pipeline project;
- (c) by when techno-economic feasibility reports as well as detailed project reports likely to be submitted to Government; and
- (d) whether any funding arrangements for proposed Iran gas pipeline has so far been worked out alongwith details thereof?

Losses in oil PSUs

4058. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the financial position of oil PSUs is not healthy;
- (b) if so, the profit-loss of each oil PSU including ONGC; and
- (c) the details of action taken by the Central Government to see that oil PSUs do not incur huge losses?

New oil refinery projects

4059. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of new oil refinery projects both in the public and private sectors are proposed to be set up over the next few years, that would substantially increase the oil refining capacity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the period 2006-2010 indicating the companies that would be setting up new refineries or increasing the capacity of existing refineries; and
- (c) the source from where the additional crude to be refined would be procured?

Trade agreement with Iran

†4060. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that India-Iran entered into a trade-agreement in June, 2005 and Iran had to supply natural gas for the next 25 years thereunder;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and annual quantum of gas required to be supplied under the said agreement and at what price; and
- (c) whether Iran has recently decided not to supply the gas at fixed price?

LPG connections in Punjab

4061. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

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

- (a) the waiting list and clearance position of LPG connections in the country during the past two years till date State-wise particularly State of Punjab;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any Selection Board is set up/proposed to be set up for dealership of LPG and petrol outlets; and
- (d) if so, the main activities of the Selection Board?

Auction of oil and gas blocks

4062. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to auction a large number of new oil and natural gas exploration blocks over the next two years;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the total estimated yield of crude oil and gas respectively from these blocks?

LPG distributors at Jashpurnagar

- †4063. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3709 given in Rajya Sabha on 26th April, 2005 and state:
- (a) the date on which survey for LPG distribution agency was conducted in Jashpurnagar, the sole district headquarter of Chhattisgarh deprived of LPG distribution facility alongwith the date on which it was found fit;
- (b) the dates on which selection process was conducted after giving advertisement for the distribution agency;
- (c) the names of persons who were given the distribution agency and the dates on which it was given; and
- (d) the details of the action taken and progress made for providing agency by October, 2005 to 14 districts out of 16 that are deprived of distribution agency?

Availability of oil reserves in Rajasthan

- 4064. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:
- (a) the latest up-to-date estimated capacity of crude oil reserves found in Barmer region of Rajasthan;
- (b) whether a Refinery would be set up in Rajasthan for processing of this crude oil:
 - (c) if so, the time-frame thereof;
- (d) by when the production of petroleum products is likely to be started from these reserves; and
- (e) the share of Rajasthan in the profit of this production and details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Share of Rajasthan in oil exploration

†4065. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

- (a) the period by when commercial production of oil is likely to commence in Barmer-Sanchour basin in the State;
- (b) whether Government would get profit from the oil and natural gas explored from this region and by when;
- (c) whether Government propose to give a share to the State also; and
- (d) if so, the percentage thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Development of tourist places in Rajasthan

†4066. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government have formulated any outlines for the development of different tourist areas in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether Government are also having a scheme to develop new tourist spots alongwith old tourist spots; and
- (c) the details of the districts for which proposals have been received by Central Government from the State Government for developing various tourist spots in those districts and the tourist places for which development plan has been prepared by the Central Government alongwith the

target fixed for completion of the said schemes?

Policies to boost rural and religious tourism

†4067. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government policies to boost rural as well as religious tourism;
- (b) whether in order to boost domestic tourism alongwith foreign tourism, the updated brochure on the existing places of mythical and religious importance would be made available at various tourist centres by Government; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government so far for the publicity of such information alongwith details of policies to be adopted in future?

Vacant post of Director in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

4068. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) since when the post of Director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has been lying vacant and reasons therefor;
- (b) by when the post is likely to be filled up;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the selection for the post was made over a year ago; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of religious archaeological and natural beauty sites

†4069. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the religious, archaeological and natural beauty sites found to be the major centres of attraction for the foreign tourists coming to India apart from Metropolitan cities;
- (b) whether there is any scheme for the development of such places; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Development to boost tourism in Uttaranchal

†4070. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a plan to boost tourism in the State of Uttaranchal has been sent by the State Government of Uttaranchal to the Central Government:
- (b) if so, the places of natural beauty in the Almora district of Uttaranchal that are proposed to be developed as tourist resorts;
- (c) whether Central Government have received some application for developing some new places as tourist resorts; and
- (d) if so, names of the places and by when they will be developed as tourist destinations?

Protection of Gorkha Fort in Uttaranchal

†4071. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having

some plan to declare the Gorkha Fort situated atop Sri Naithana Devi hill under district Almora in Uttaranchal as a protected monument:

- (b) if so, by when it will be declared as a protected monument; and
- (c) whether Gorkha Fort being declared as a protected monument, Government have any plan to develop Sri Naithana Devi hill as ideal tourist destination?

Development of Eco-tourism in Orissa

4072. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that eco-tourism is picking up in Orissa and other States in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the cash-strapped Orissa State to develop this sector to improve their economy?

Involvement of Yoga for promotion of tourism

4073. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) in what manner Government are involving the renowned yoga teachers and centres in different countries towards promotion of Tourism;
- (b) whether Government have a list of such big organisations which hold yoga camps and festivals abroad;
- (c) whether any representative of Government has visited any such festival;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) whether Government have prepared a list of yoga teachers of repute in foreign countries; and
- (e) whether her Ministry is aware about the European Yoga Festival held in BLOIS in France in July every year?

Tourist attraction in Orissa

4074. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

- (a) whether Central Government propose to frame a policy to attract tourists in our country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the Orissa State is a hub of tourist attraction; and
- (d) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to help the cashstrapped State to exploit this potential to improve its economy?

Linking up of Central libraries

4075. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to inter connect and link all the Central libraries in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds to be provided for the same; and
- (d) the stage at which it stands at present?

Inflow of foreign tourists

4076. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the country attracts very less foreign tourists than its actual potential;
- (b) if so, the details of the foreign tourists visited the country during each of the last three years alongwith the details of the neighbouring countries including China; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists to the country and the target fixed for the purpose?

Visit of cultural delegation to Pakistan

- 4077. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether an Indian Cultural delegation recently visited Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the nature of talks held by the delegation with representatives of the Government of Pakistan; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to implement the decisions taken during the talks?

Privatisation/disinvestment of hotels

- †4078. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the names of the hotels privatised/disinvested under her Ministry, till date;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the amount received by Government, hotel-wise;
- (c) whether Government are aware of the alleged irregularities in privatisation/ disinvestment of hotels; and
- (d) whether any action has been taken/ proposed to be taken by Government for their scrutiny?

Height of Mullaperiyar Dam

4079. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court has given a judgement regarding increasing the height of Mullaperiyal Dam;
- (b) if so, whether State Government of Kerala has enacted a legislation to counter the Supreme Court judgement; and
- (c) if so, what action has been taken to increase the height of Mullaperiyar Dam?

Functioning of major reservoirs

†4080. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only 76 major reservoirs are functional in the country;
 - (b) if not, the actual number thereof;
- (c) the number of such reservoirs, Statewise, and the average annual availability of water in each of these reservoir; and
- (d) the percentage of agricultural and irrigated land from the water available in the said reservoirs, State-wise?

Handing over rights on rivers to private corporations

- 4081. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the water rights on four rivers in Chhattisgarh have been handed over to private consortia;
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard;
- (c) how many rivers in the country have been handed over to private consortia; and
- (d) whether there is any constitutional approval for handing over rights on rivers to private corporations?

Conference on safe drinking water supply

4082. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps Government have taken, till date, to provide safe drinking water supply to every habitation in rural/urban areas as per decision taken at the two days State Minister's Conference held in New Delhi in January-February, 2006;
- (b) whether any action plan was chalked out at the above mentioned Conference, if so, the details thereof and follow-up action taken thereon, till date; and
- (c) what budgetary allocations were made during 2006-07 in comparison to 2005-06?

Availability of cultivative land for irrigation

†4083. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to reconstitution of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bihar in 2000 and its partition thereafter, cultivable land has decreased;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that as per the second report of State Irrigation Commission, the irrigation capacity of the available cultivable land could not be fully regenerated; and
- (c) if so, what is the approach of Government indicating the complete details thereof?

Polavaram Dam

4084. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what would be the annual siltation estimated by the technical agencies at the proposed Polavaram Dam across the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh for the current year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that technically dams built near mouth of river will involve greater level of siltation;
- (c) whether Government at any point of time propose to suggest alternate sites which would be better in terms of cost effectiveness and technical feasibility;
- (d) if not, what steps will be taken by Government to intervene and offer technical advice on site and shape of dams across the river Godavari; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

CWC study of river Godavari

4085. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has conducted detailed studies of the river Godavari from the point where it enters Andhra Pradesh:

- (b) if so, what is the Mean Sea level of the river Godavari at the entry point in Andhra Pradesh:
- (c) the Mean Sea level of the Godavari at Bhadrachalam Kunavaram and Parentapally respectively;
- (d) whether any studies been done to determine the best sites for irrigation projects on this river; and
 - (e) what are the details thereof?

Completion of irrigation projects

4086. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of externally funded irrigation projects under implementation in the various States of the country;
- (b) the achievements on each of the aforesaid projects;
- (c) the details of target date for completion of the above projects, Statewise; and
- (d) what effective measures are being taken by Government in this respect?

Construction of a dam across Palar river, Tamil Nadu

4087. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Andhra Pradesh propose to construct a dam across Palar river affecting the interest of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether Central Government are fully aware that there has been hue and cry followed by protests and serious objections

from Tamil Nadu for such a move on the part of Andhra Pradesh which is illegal and high-handed;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken up the issue seriously besides passing a resolution in the House of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly; and
- (d) what are the major effective steps taken by the Central Government to avert this uneasy situation?

Special status to Rajasthan under Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme

†4088. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to grant a special status to Rajasthan on the lines of North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh under the Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme keeping in view the conditions of the State such as two third of its area being the parts of the Thar Desert and having drought prone areas, long international border with Pakistan and facing natural disasters; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard, indicating the details thereof?

Implementation of Hydrology Project-I and Project Phase-II

4089. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hydrological Information System is needed to manage the country's water resources;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government have successfully implemented Hydrology Project-I; and
- (d) whether Government are considering to implement the Project Phase-II soon?

Supply of drinking water from Mahadayi river to Hubli-Dharwad districts

4090. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has been requesting the Central Government to allow it to divest 7.5 tmcft of water from the Mahadayi river to the Malaprabha Reservoir so that the drinking water problem of Hubli-Dharwad districts is resolved; and
- (b) if so, Central Government's reaction in this regard?

Proposal for hydrological information

- 4091. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any proposal for Hydrological Information System as on today;
- (b) if so, the details of projects associated to the above system and the States identified to the above project as on today;
- (c) if so, the details of grant allotted to beneficiary States, State-wise, as on today;
- (d) whether the data and studies on dam safety is a part of the Hydrological Information System; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if not, what steps are proposed to be taken for the above purpose?

UNESCO Report on water management

- 4092. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) what are the findings of the UNESCO's 'United Nations World Water Development Report' in so far as it relates to India's water management;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Report has highlighted that a large section of the country's population has no access to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation and that corruption in water supply and sanitation sector is rampant;
- (c) whether the Report has also highlighted excess fluoride content in water and high incidence of diseases arising from poor water supply and sanitation and soiltransmitted worm infections; and
 - (d) if so, Government's response thereto?

Construction of new dams in Gujarat

- †4093. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a survey for construction of new dams in Gujarat has been conducted by the Central Government; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Water crisis in States

†4094. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in many parts of the country water resources are getting dried and level of ground water is declining and on account of it the water crisis in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Rajasthan has worsened and it appears that one more desert is coming up;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government are taking to combat this situation?

People displaced due to dam on river Godavari

- 4095. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any details on the number of people who will be displaced by proposed irrigation projects on river Godavari;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received details of number of people and villages and towns who will have to be evacuated who are living within the dam shadow or just below the proposed dam across the river Godavari; and
- (d) the details of such displacement below the proposed dam submitted to Government?

Construction of Babli Barrage by Maharashtra

- 4096. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the construction of Babli Barrage by Maharashtra Government would affect the

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

people of six districts of Andhra Pradesh and 18 lakh acres of land in these districts would go dry as they would be deprived of their due share of water;

- (b) if so, whether the two States alongwith him are holding meetings with officials of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra Government with a view to resolve the dispute over the construction of Babli Barrage across the river Godavari; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Displacement of tribals due to Polavaram Project

- 4097. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government had received any request to look into the issue of tribals displacement due to the large irrigation projects particularly of Polavaram Project;
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to address the concerns of tribals in this regard?

Scarcity of water in Madhya Pradesh

- †4098. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of districts in Madhya Pradesh where farmers can reap only one crop due to scarcity of water;
- (b) whether Government have made arrangements for any other alternatives; and
- (c) by when the water for irrigation would be made available?

Proposals from Tripura under Brahamputra Board

4099. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposals submitted by the State Government of Tripura which come within the purview of Brahamputra Board;
- (b) the status of the proposals relating to different works, master plans of the rivers Gumti, Nuhuri Manu, Dhaladi, Juri, Khowai, etc., drainage development schemes of Rudrasagar, Kailashahar, Dharmanagar etc. and flood protection schemes; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to expedite the above works?

Inter-State water disputes

- 4100. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of inter-States rivers in the country showing the riparian States of each river:
- (b) the details of inter-State water disputes among riparian States since Independence, both settled and unsettled disputes; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of lower riparian States?

Sardar Sarovar Project

- 4101. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) the names of the beneficiary States of Sardar Sarovar Project;
- (b) what will be the total generation of electricity at the dam site and the share of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra States;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) the main beneficiary as far as benefit of power generation is concerned;
- (d) how much amount is spent by Gujarat on the rehabilitation work for the displaced tribals and others on account of this project; and
- (e) the amount spent by the Madhya Pradesh for the said work and the money given by Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh?

Losses due to average annual monsoon

†4102 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country has to suffer losses of more than 241 crore rupees on account of average annual monsoon:
- (b) if not, the assessment regarding the actual losses; and
- (c) the States which suffers maximum and minimum losses on account of monsoon and amount of losses suffered by them respectively?

Bangladesh's opposition to linking of rivers

- 4103. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government of Bangladesh has opposed the Central Government's proposal to link the rivers;

(b) whether they contend that the linking of rivers may lead to the complete flow of water to India only; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to resolve the issue with Bangladesh?

Completion of irrigation projects in Rajasthan

- 4104. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a number of irrigation projects are running behind their original schedule as on date;
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering to invite private participation to complete such irrigation projects in the States particularly in Rajasthan;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Flood problem in Assam

- 4105. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:
- (a) the status and achievements as on date of the Special Task Force that was constituted by the Prime Minister to tackle the flood problem of Assam;
- (b) whether any policy has been concretised so far and any time-bound projects have been initiated for permanent solution of the problem; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

New Delhi; *The* 17th May, 2006 *Vaisakha* 27, 1928 (*Saka*) YOGENDRA NARAIN, Secretary-General.

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