

## RAJYASABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the December 23, 2003/Pausa 2, 1925 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions—155**

#### Subsidies for Haj pilgrimage

2163. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to continue to provide subsidies for Haj pilgrimage for the 2004 season; if so, with what conditions and modifications, *vis-a-vis* subsidies provides in 2003; and

(b) whether such subsidies have been provided for any other pilgrimages, if so, the details and to what extent?

#### Upgradation of airports in UP

†2164. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports under National Airports Authority of India in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of airports which are proposed to be upgraded as international airports out of them; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

#### Study on air tariff

2165. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mandated the National Council for Applied Economic Research to conduct a study and recommend ways and means to lower air tariffs;

(b) if so, whether NCAER has since submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any other modalities have been worked out to lower the air tariffs of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### Loss incurring routes of IA

2166. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss incurring routes being operated by Indian Airlines at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to allow private airlines to operate on such routes;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Club at Hyderabad unit  
of AAI**

2167. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in his report No. 3 of 2003 has observed that Hyderabad unit of the Airports Authority of India granted license to set up a club at an annual license fee of Rs. 300 per Sq. metre although Headquarters had fixed Rs.1302 per Sq. metre;

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

(c) whether the licensee occupied 7110.5Sq. metre unauthorisedly and constructed a restaurant, a marriage hall, a swimming pool, etc.; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter including the recovery of damages?

**Aircrafts with IA and AI**

2168. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircrafts, model name and year of acquisition available with both Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) the details of plans for acquiring additional aircrafts, by both the above carriers; and

(c) the amount estimated to be spent over the same plan?

**Handing of Dabolim Airport**

2169. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the list of civilian used airports in the country which are currently controlled by army, navy or air force authorities;

(b) what is the status of the ownership of Goa's Dabolim Airport;

(c) whether any representations have been received for the handing over of the airport to the civilian authorities; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this regard?

**Handing over of Hyderabad Airport  
to IAF**

2170. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over Begampet (Hyderabad Airport) civil airport to IAF for military flying;

(b) if so, whether comments from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been sought;

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

(d) whether the handing over of Begampet civil airport to IAF would hamper the traffic of the proposed international airport at Shamshabad?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Operation of small airports**

2171. SHRI EKANATH K.

THAKUR:

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 allow small airports, with no-frills to come up in the vicinity of the international airports, modelled on London's Stansted Airport, which would offer fewer facilities and charge lower rates, for overall cheaper operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific sites identified so far for the purpose in different States?

### **Air India's services from Kolkata**

2172. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of fifty four International Air Flights per week from Kolkata only one is operated by Air India that too upto Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action plan to increase air linkage of Kolkata with South East Asia, East Asia, European countries through Air India;

(d) whether a request has been made by State Government for Kolkata-Tokyo flight by Air India in view of high investment of Japanese Companies in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government so far?

### **Accidents involving small aircrafts**

†2173. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and big aircrafts being operated by Government and private companies which met with accidents during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases out of these accidents in which inquiry committees were constituted;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Civilian air traffic controllers at air force bases**

2174. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force is willing to accommodate civilian air traffic controllers at its airbases particularly in Northern India; and

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

### **Under utilisation of minor airports**

2175. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing capacities at most of the minor airports across the country are under-utilised and some such airports have even remained non-operational for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal has been formulated to extend help to small airline operators plying to minor aerodromes to undertake regular operations on the feeder routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

steps being taken to provide the requisite infrastructure like passenger amenities, air safety, etc.?

#### **Helicopter service in Mumbai**

2176. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a helicopter service in Mumbai between Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport and the city;

(b) if so, whether the consent of the residents over noise pollution has been obtained; and

(c) whether they have no objection in this regard?

#### **New airport at Nagaland**

2177. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to further improve air links in the NE Region;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether there has been any proposal from the Government of Nagaland for a new airport; and

(d) if so, what is the progress thereof?

#### **Ahmedabad-New York direct flight**

†2178. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate a direct flight of Air India to New York (without changing plane) from Ahmedabad; and

(b) the number of passengers who travel through the flights of Air India and Indian Airlines every month and the number thereof during the last three years?

#### **Impact of open sky policy on tourism sector**

2179. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'open sky' policy adopted by Government is putting adverse effect upon tourism sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider its policy; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for minimizing its impact on tourism sector?

#### **CAT-III landing system at Delhi Airport**

2180. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAT-III landing system is in place at Delhi Airport to ensure proper flight schedules during foggy winter months;

(b) whether the flight crew are now trained and equipped to operate CAT-III landing and take-off systems;

(c) whether the meteorological office, based on excess monsoon, has forecast a severe winter and foggy weather during winter months; and

(d) if so, the details of contingency plans to keep flights on schedule during winter?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Slum around Mumbai Airport**

2181. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai Airport is encircled by slumdwelleres;
- (b) whether Government have taken any steps to rehabilitate the slumdwelleres; and
- (c) if so, what are the details thereof?

### **Opening up of Civil Aviation Sector**

†2182. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Civil Aviation Sector has been opened for private sector on large scale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have imposed less tariff as the private airlines would be using Government facility and assets under this process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for granting permission to use the facilities created with the Government exchequer free of costs?

### **Late announcement of open sky policy**

2183. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have announced an open sky policy for a three month period starting from December this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that several European airlines have complained that they would not be able to offer additional service to passengers from and to India as the Government announcement had come late; and

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

### **Revival of aviation industry**

2184. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the international flights from Europe to South East Asia over-fly India because of excessive airport charges and highly priced Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to revive our sick aviation industry?

### **Improvement in air services**

†2185. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken to improve air links in Leh in Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when, the scheme is likely to be accomplished?

### **Linking of State capitals with Delhi**

†2186. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the State capitals which have not yet been linked with Delhi through air;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) by when these are likely to be linked through air;

(c) whether all State capitals of the country have been inter-linked; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Representation from trade unions**

2187. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government employees who retired in the month of February, March, April, 1996 could not get the full pensionary benefits because their pension was fixed on the basis of the pay fixed or drawn at the time of their retirement;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from various Trade Unions or individuals for fixation of pension on the basis of the pay last drawn instead of last ten months average; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to remove the anomaly and by when orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

#### **Clearance of wages of PSU workers**

2188. SHRI N.R. DASARI:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allotted some funds to clear the outstanding salaries and wages of the workers in Central Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the

outstanding dues of the workers, PSU-wise according to the latest available data and how much is expected to be cleared by the allotted funds?

#### **FDI in R&D**

2189. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has directed the department of industrial policy and promotion and the Ministry of Finance to introduce policy measures to attract foreign direct investment in research and development;

(b) if so, whether he has asked the department and the Ministry to evolve policy measures so that FDI in R&D could be incentivised;

(c) if so, to what extent the Prime Minister's directive has been considered by both the department and the Ministry; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement this directive?

#### **Contravention of Officials Language Act**

†2190. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for contravention of the Official Language Act by the Unit Trust of India whereas as per the Official Language Act there is a provision to bring out all the formats bilingually by all the offices;

(b) whether the Delhi based chief of the Trust has compelled a senior citizen to make correspondence in English alone

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

regarding which the Ministry has been informed and what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps likely to be taken to do away with the contravention of rules and ignorance of official duties by the Unit Office?

#### **Technology upgradation in plantation sector**

2191. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to go in for technology upgradation in the plantation sector to promote value addition, quality upgradation as well as exports; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for waiver of important duties on essential machinery for such a technological upgradation?

#### **DCA's directives to autonomous institutes**

2192. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DCA has the power to issue directives to autonomous institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DCA is even issuing such orders on purely executive action like transfers and postings; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **German aid to Orissa**

2193. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany has released 1.75 lakhs in Euro-currency as their contribution for flood relief for Orissa; and

(b) which are the other foreign agencies who have extended similar help to the State for the purpose?

#### **Implementation of ERC's recommendations**

2194. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of Economic Reforms Commission's recommendations during the last one year, especially in the field of downsizing of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the success achieved in downsizing the employees, Ministry/Department-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to implement the recommendations made by Geetha Krishnan Committee; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Simplifications of procedure of tax refunds**

†2195. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the procedure of tax refunds in order to streamline the tax administration and to provide immediate relief to the tax-payers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Decline in priority sector accounts**

†2196. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accounts in the Priority sector is decreasing continuously;

(b) if not, the number of said accounts in the public sector banks at the end of March 1998 and March 2003 separately; and

(c) the total amount disbursed through these accounts during the above years?

**Action against officials of UTI**

†2197. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the JPC has urged Government to identify and punish the officials guilty in the US-64 scam;

(b) if so, whether Government have since identified the guilty officials;

(c) if so, the names of such officials along with the post they are holding; and

(d) the action taken by Government against each of the guilty official separately?

**Inflation rate**

†2198. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the week ending 4th October, 2003 the inflation rate had reached upto 5.08 per cent;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said rise in inflation rate was the outcome of the price rise of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the names of the foodgrains alongwith the rise in the prices thereof separately?

**Loans under PMRY**

2199. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to bring down the gap in number of persons recommended and the actual disbursement made by banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana scheme in the States;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this gap;

(c) the details of the steps Government propose to take to see that loans are disbursed to those who have been recommended;

(d) what is the total amount of loan that has been disbursed against the total number of cases recommended; and

(e) to what extent the position has improved since 2000-01?

**Ceiling on equity holding in SBI**

2200. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the equity holding for both the individual investor and corporates in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi



associate banks of SBI is currently capped at 200 share per investor;

(b) whether the State Bank of India has approached the Finance Ministry for lifting the ceiling on the equity holding of investors in its associate banks; and

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

#### **B.K. Bhattacharya Report**

2201. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Committee of State Secretaries set up by Reserve Bank of India headed by Shri B.K. Bhattacharya has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of its recommendation and Government's reaction thereto?

#### **House Rent Allowance to spouses of Government Employees**

2202. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the spouses of the Central Government employees working in the autonomous organisation such as Book Trust of India etc. who are not eligible for the allotment of Government accommodations are not being granted House Rent Allowance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to grant HRA to the spouses who are working in autonomous organisations and who are

not entitled for the allotment of the Government accommodations; and

(d) if so, by when the orders to this effect are likely to be issued?

#### **Salaries and jobs of employees in disinvested PSUs**

†2203. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of sale out of the PSUs to the private companies by the Central Government, Salaries and jobs of thousands of employees working in their undertakings remain as usual; and

(b) if not, the details of the scheme formulated by Government to provide jobs to thousands of such employees who have been rendered jobless?

#### **Recovery of Corporate Tax**

2204. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount recoverable on account of corporate tax, import duty, sales tax, income tax etc. during the last three years *i.e.*, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) the amount recovered during the above years;

(c) whether any target is being fixed for recovery of the arrears, every year;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of the top hundred defaulting establishments and their outstanding dues to above accounts as on 31st March, 2003?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

### **New Scheme for loans to farmers**

† 2205. SMRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce a new scheme of giving loan to farmers in lieu of their crops in order to provide relief to them;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said scheme; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be started?

### **Loans to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements**

† 2206. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide loans to farmers for purchasing agricultural implements without mortgaging their lands for the upliftment of agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Claiming of rebate by industries in Uttaranchal**

† 2207. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the industries in unnotified areas of Uttaranchal have been claiming rebate in the excise duties, income tax and capital subsidy;

(b) whether Government would initiate any action against those officers who have recommended rebates in the taxes and

capital subsidy in contravention of the rules; and

(c) if so, by when?

### **Declaration of interim dividend by IDBI**

2208. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI in which Government have 51 per cent equity participation paid dividend @ 15 per cent for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, which is much below the earlier payment of 45 per cent;

(b) if so, what was the role of Government representative on the Board of IDBI to safeguard the interest of Government and other shareholders in regard to payment of dividend at low rate; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ask the public sector banks including IDBI to declare interim dividend before the close of current financial year so as to reduce Government deficit?

### **Manipulation of scrip prices**

2209. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Mutual Funds including domestic and Foreign are under the scanner of SEBI for alleged misappropriation of the scrip prices in the recent Bull run;

(b) whether these funds were found for alleged manipulation of the scrip prices to increase their Net Asset Value (NAV);

(c) whether SEBI Chairman had a meeting on 11th September, 2003 with the Chiefs of all the Asset Management Companies to discuss the issue of front running by the Mutual Fund Manager; and

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Winding up of sick companies by BIFR**

2210. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick companies which have been ordered to be wound up by the Board for Industrial and financial Reconstruction (BIFR) during the last three years;

(b) the details of the companies with the losses incurred by these companies and the amount of losses incurred to the Exchequer; and

(c) how many companies have been restructured by Government during the last three years?

**Amendment of laws on levy of excise duty**

2211. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to amend existing laws to levy excise duty on final sale price;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional revenue expected to be collected per annum in general and particularly from oil companies;

(c) whether Government have considered the impact of the amendments on the prices of petroleum products and rise in prices of commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Under declaration of dividends**

2212. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a tendency is developing on the part of both, public and private sector to declare dividend much below the level of earning of the company, thereby depriving shareholders of their due dividend, whereas expenditure on salaries, commission and perks of the employees continues to increase; and

(b) if so, in what manner, Department of Company Affairs/SEBI proposes to safeguard the interest of the shareholders and ensure that they get dividend on the basis of the profit earned by the company per share?

**Growth forecast of economy**

2213. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the forecast of 7.4 per cent growth of Indian economy by CMIE during 2003-04;

(b) if so, whether the 1st and 2nd quarterly statistics relating to economy bear out this unprecedented optimism; and

(c) what is the actual growth rate during the first six months, and what is the anticipated rate during the remaining two quarters, and estimated overall annual 2003-04 growth rate?

**Income of RBI**

2214. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has recorded a 6.1 per cent drop (Rs. 1504.70 crore) in income at Rs. 23,185.64 crore during the year ending June, 2003 as compared to previous year's total income of Rs. 24,690.34 crore, in spite of interest savings of Rs. 344.90 crore by RBI; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this decline and what is the anticipated income for the year ending 31st March, 2004?

#### **Nationalised Banks**

2215. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Nationalised Banks in each State; and

(b) what is the number of Urban and Rural Banks state-wise?

#### **Loan repayment liabilities of Rajasthan**

2216. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI GHULAM NABI  
AZAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether against recommendations by Government of Rajasthan to relax loan repayment liabilities and relief in debt liability in context of Gadgil Formula, Government have plans to act according to the said recommendations;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Violation of norms for crediting interest**

2217. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2935 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received information that State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, Janak Puri Branch, New Delhi is

violating the provision with regard to crediting interest by 31st March of every year and also violating on payment of interest for the month on payments made by cheque by 5th of month but cleared after that date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Commercial Bank advances to NBFCs**

2218. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in credit policy review of the Reserve Bank of India that commercial bank advances to Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) for lending to small industries would be treated as priority sector lending;

(b) if so, the details including overall target for mandatory funding for Indian Banks and Foreign Banks for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the area/sector included and fund sanctioned in concept of priority sector lending, implying a preferential access to bank funds, category-wise, year-wise and State-wise for the last three years?

#### **Credit policy of RBI regarding priority sector**

2219. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest Credit Policy Review of Reserve Bank of India has decided to appoint a "Working Group" to examine effective way of utilisation of priority sector funds;

(b) if so, details thereof including official committees that have gone into inadequate

finance faced by the small scale industry sector and action taken;

(c) whether 23 products within small scale industry sector have been allowed a much higher investment limit; and

(d) if so, details of above 23 products and finance utilised under priority sector funds during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

#### **Utilisation of Government assistance by States**

2220. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government assistance are not being utilised by various State Governments in time because the release of fund is towards the end of the year, if so the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government are considering to introduce new system for the better utilisation of Government assistance?

#### **Budget allocation for projects in Orissa**

2221. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total budget allocation of the Central Projects in Orissa namely, Paradeep Oil Refinery, Petroleum Crude Oil Pipe Line, Paradeep, All India Medical Institutes' branch in Orissa and East Coast Railway Headquarter?

#### **Complaint against custom officers of Gaya Airport**

2222. SHRI NAVA DESHMUKH:  
SHRIMATI. BIMBA RAIKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

Question 2925 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of Thai tourists has lodged a complaint of harassment and intimidation against customs officers at Gaya International Airport when they landed on a chartered Aircraft in Gaya last week; and

(b) whether as reported the tourists were holding valid papers and were carrying articles well within their entitlement?

#### **Exemption of excise duty on 21" TV sets**

2223. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for exempting Excise and Import Duty on 21" Colour TV sets supplied to the Government schools; and

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

#### **Floating interest rate on housing finance**

†2224. SHRI DARA SINGH  
CHAUHAN:  
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefit of the floating interest rate by the Housing Finance Companies is not being provided to the borrowers to whom they had given the assurance for the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that for providing the said benefit these companies are collecting the additional money from the

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

borrowers which is not amongst the loan-conditions; and

(c) the extent of loans provided by SBI, HDFC, ICICI on the floating interest rate alongwith the earning through the collection of additional money from the public?

#### **Fiscal position of States**

2225. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any systemic survey to assess the fiscal position of the States in the context of the programme of fiscal reforms inaugurated some years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results of the survey;

(c) the major bottlenecks hindering the pace of fiscal reforms; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove them?

#### **Variation in foreign exchange reserves**

2226. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the variation in forex reserves from week to week since August 30, 2003, indicating the foreign currency assets, Gold Reserves and SDRs contents thereof;

(b) the total foreign debts as on August 30 and November 30, 2003, and the per capita debt in the country; and

(c) how far the forex reserve increase was attributable to disinvestments of PSUs?

#### **Comparison of income tax collections**

2227. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total income-tax collections during April to September, 2003 and the comparative figures for 2002 and 2001 indicating Slab-wise break-up of the tax collections and the increase in number of tax payees slab-wise; and

(b) whether the increase in tax collections and number of tax-payees is largely attributable to tax-payers belonging to lower-income slabs than to higher income slabs and if so, to what extent?

#### **Promotion of integrated rural development in A.P.**

2228. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role NABARD and SIDBI have played in promoting integrated rural development in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) number of units promoted in each of the two States during the said period; and

(c) the achievements made during the said period, State-wise?

#### **RBI's guidelines for relief to natural calamity affected areas**

†2229. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had issued standing guidelines for the banks to provide

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

immediate relief in the restoration of economic activities by Government to the natural calamity affected areas;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the banks in the drought affected areas/districts, State-wise; and

(c) the number of money related applications received by banks, the number of applications sanctioned or are still under consideration?

#### **Amendment in ECB guidelines**

2230. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are coming out with revised guidelines for ECB approvals;

(b) what are the details of these amendments; and

(c) by when it will come into force and whether the process for getting approvals will be simplified?

#### **Payment of interest by investors of UTI**

2231. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 906 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2003 and state:

(a) the number of cases in which Unit Trust of India Investor Services Limited has paid interest @5.5 per cent per annum to the investors for delayed payment to US-64 'A' unit holders, as advised by SUUTI; and

(b) if not, whether such payment has been made, the reasons therefor and the action taken in the matter so far?

#### **Payment of service tax in Karnataka**

2232. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons/ organisations liable to pay service tax in Karnataka;

(b) out of which, how many registrations have so far been done;

(c) how many services are coming under service tax in Karnataka;

(d) the amount collected by way of service tax in Karnataka during 2003-04; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to reach the target?

#### **Pending Enforcement cases**

2233. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Enforcement cases are pending with the department;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending for the last three years;

(c) what is the total value of evasion of taxes on account of these cases; and

(d) what steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of cases and give punishment to the evaders?

#### **Reduction in Government's expenditure**

2234. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total Government expenditure during the last financial year;

(b) what is the total expenditure this year;

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the wasteful expenditure of Government;

(d) whether Government have achieved any substantial saving on account of these expenses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Sale of gold**

†2235. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase its foreign exchange reserve by selling certain quantity of gold out of its buffer stock in view of steep rise in gold prices during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the quantity thereof proposed to be sold out and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Karnataka's request for withholding CENVAT**

2236. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to put on hold implementation of CENVAT system and continue with the old taxation policy in respect of powerloom and garment sectors, on account of immense opposition to CENVAT from these sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

#### **FDI limit in private sector banks**

2237. SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in private sector banks to 74 per cent from the present 49 per cent; and

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

#### **Increased market borrowing of States**

2238. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has cautioned States on increased market borrowings;

(b) whether RBI has issued certain guidelines to control expenditure, contain debt and evolve a better cash management system, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether States have by now chalked out some roadmap for medium term reforms to control fiscal, if so, the details of those States with specific reference to Orissa?

#### **Marketing of insurance products**

2239. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to market insurance products launched by Government and other agencies in order to widen its base and also to earn considerable revenue;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Insider trading in Stock Exchanges**

2240. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have initiated to curb insider-trading in Stock Exchanges; and

(b) whether Government propose to give more teeth/powers to market regulator, SEBI in tune with the expanded mandate of the regulator for safeguarding genuine investors' interests particularly small investors?

**Branches of banks in foreign countries**

†2241. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks are opening their branches abroad;

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

(c) the number of branches of Public Sector Banks abroad and the locations thereof; and

(d) the number of branches out of the same earning profit and the number of branches running on no profit no loss basis and the number of branches incurring loss together with the details thereof?

**Request for sanction of posts**

†2242. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had sent its requests for sanction of the posts for

recruitment of staff in National Medicinal Plant Board;

(b) the date on which requests of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were accepted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Benami Transaction Act, 1988**

2243. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to crack down on benami transactions by framing strict rules under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act of 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Benami transactions have been most common in real estate business and is the largest means of generating black money; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government's new rules under the Benami Transactions Act, will plug loopholes in real estate business?

**Special small savings scheme**

2244. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce a special small savings scheme for the benefit of common people in the country;

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

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

**Increase in TA of Government employees**

2245. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to increase travelling allowance of Government employees of Group C and D Staff;
- (b) if so, by when; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Opening of SBI branch in Jangla, Shimla**

† 2246. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to open the branch of the S.B.I. at Jangla in the district of Shimla so that the retired employees, farmers and business persons could reap benefit thereof;
- (b) whether the people of five Panchayats area would be benefited in case the branch of State Bank of India is opened in Jangla;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Growth in power and telecom sector**

2247. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that an analysis has revealed that power and telecom sectors have not registered growth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Index of Industrial growth**

2248. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Index of Industrial production growth during April to August, 2003 and that during April and August, 2002;
- (b) the export growth during April-September, 2003 and that during 2002-2003;
- (c) the growth in bank credit during April-September, 2003 and that during 2002-2003;
- (d) whether on the basis of this can it be inferred that India has entered a higher growth path on a sustainable basis; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Clearance of Asset Reconstruction Companies**

2249. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have cleared some more Asset Reconstruction Companies;
- (b) if so, what are the proposed new companies;
- (c) by when, they are likely to be set up; and
- (d) what is the likely impact of all the companies operating in the system, on the recovery position of the non-performing assets?

**Growth of agriculture and industry sector**

2250. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture and Industry sectors are expected to show

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

better growth rates in the current financial years;

(b) if so, whether the performance so far is on the lines of the estimates; and

(c) to what extent Government have been successful in taking the economy on the path of progress?

#### **Surrogate auditing**

2251. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational corporations are doing surrogate audit work in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the cases that came to the notice of Government;

(c) the action taken on such companies;

(d) the details of foreign companies allowed to do the audit work in the country;

(e) whether Government have reviewed their working recently; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Higher interest rate by SBI**

2252. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Consortium of Banks led by SBI have been appropriating around 6 per cent of the budgeted provision for food subsidy by charging an interest of Rs. 10.95 per cent for food credit from Food Corporation of India while these banks are lending to Government at the rate of 4.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for this anomaly; and

(c) whether Government are set to approve a bond flotation from the FCI in the debt market and if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

#### **Target for Kisan Credit Cards**

2253. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed in regard to Kisan Credit Cards for the year 2003-04, State-wise and Bank-wise;

(b) whether Government are facing difficulties in achieving the target at the said scheme;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken adequate steps to remove the difficulties being faced in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Outstanding income tax dues against banks**

2254. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of income tax towards each National/Private bank and Financial institutions in the country as on March 31, 2003;

(b) the reasons for accumulation of outstanding amount; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government as on date to recover the outstanding amount of income tax?

**Introduction of Zero-IV vehicular emission norms**

2255. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:  
SHRI ABANI ROY:  
SHRI RUMANDLA  
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

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

(a) whether Government have announced a faced programme for introducing Zero-IV vehicular emission norms in the country by the year 2010; and

(b) if so, what are complete details of the programme and how much investment is required by the Oil and Automobile industry to implement this programme; and

(c) if so, whether Government will permit a phased withdrawal of vehicles purchased by 2005 onwards as a sudden change would not be practically punishable?

**Oil and Gas production**

2256. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:  
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated reserves of oil and natural gas in the country;

(b) the total production of oil and gas in the country during the last three years;

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the production of oil and gas in the country; and

(d) what is the total outflow of foreign exchange for import of oil and gas in the country?

**Per capita availability of kerosene**

† 2257. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of kerosene oil in different States of the country at present and State-wise consumption thereof;

(b) the national average in each State; and

(c) the details of the steps to be taken by Government to increase the allocation of kerosene to various States?

**African Union Summit**

2258. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil has been discussed in the recently held African Union Summit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Gas available in KG basin**

2259. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements for exploitation of natural gas resources found in Krishna Godavari basin by Reliance Company have been finalized;

(b) whether this gas will be used for the industrial development of Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Demand and availability of Natural Gas**

2260. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) the total demand of Natural Gas, for daily use and what is the availability of Natural Gas;

(b) whether the Demand-Supply gap of Natural Gas can be bridged; if so, by when;

(c) whether the ceramic and fire brick Industrial Belt of Saurashtra, Surendranagar-Thane-Wankaner Dhuva and Morki are to be provided Natural Gas, next year; and

(d) the estimated demand of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the most industrially developed States, for Natural Gas and how much was the actual availability as on 31st October, 2003?

**Excess production of kerosene**

†2261. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of kerosene oil in the country has been more than the requirement during the recent years;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that permission for the import of kerosene oil in the public sector has been granted by Government recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**Withdrawal from oil pool account**

†2262. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount in excess to the prescribed amount from the oil pool account has been withdrawn by some of the public sector companies in respect of the corporate payment during the recent past years;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the amount in excess withdrawn by each of the company, separately; and

(c) the total amount deposited in the oil pool account till the end of March, 2003?

**Increase in freight rate for transportation of crude oil**

†2263. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH  
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight rate fixed for the transportation of the crude oil from abroad has been increasing continuously after April, 2002 to September, 2003;

(b) if so, what was the freight rate in April 2002 and in September, 2003; and

(c) how much increase and decrease in the said freight rate has been made during the said period alongwith the dates thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Constitution of sub-groups**

2264. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) whether Government are going to constitute sub-groups under the Task Force to formulate long-term framework for utilisation of natural gas available from various sources;

(b) if so, what are the criteria adopted for constituting the sub-groups on 'Transportation' and 'Demand and utilisation' of gas;

(c) whether any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in the Ministry for inclusion of the representatives in the above sub-Groups; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken on the request?

### **Decline in sale of diesel**

2265. SHRI EKANATH K.  
THAKUR:  
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a continuous drop in the demand for diesel in the country during the last two years and the diesel sales witnessed a 3.2 per cent decline during the last six months, over the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that large scale adulteration of diesel with the cheaper

kerosene has been continuing over a long period; and

(d) if so, the details of specific studies undertaken, if any, and steps taken to make such adulteration unprofitable?

### **Oman's investment in oil sector**

2266. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Oman has shown interest in investing in Oil Sector in India;

(b) what are the earlier stakes of Oman in the Oil and fertilizer sectors; and

(c) what is the status of the gas pipeline project between the two countries?

### **Reinstatement of terminated employees in EIL**

2267. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-  
RAIAH:  
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:  
SHRIMATI. KAMLA  
MANHAR:  
SHRI RAMADHAR  
KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether Government have written to various PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for absorption of more than 300 contract employees/engineers terminated by Engineers India Limited (EIL); and

(b) if so, what is the response of each PSUs, PSU-wise, and by when all the terminated employees will be re-instated?

### **Expenditure on IOC outlets**

2268. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of IOC in the country, State-wise and abroad;

(b) the expenses incurred on setting up of these outlets;

(c) whether it is a fact that a major share of the profit earned by IOC is generated through its retail outlets in the country and abroad; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the total profit of IOC alongwith the separate details of the income generated through its retail outlets during the last three years?

### **Penalties for diversion of LPG cylinders**

2269. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1736 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the malpractice of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purpose in metropolitan cities continues unabated as penal provision for such misuse is not a deterrent;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-look into the matter so as to prescribe deterrent penalties for such misuse; and

(c) by when the exercise is likely to be completed and intimated to concerned authorities and gas companies?

### **Freeze on gas price**

2270. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

whether Government propose to freeze the price of gas so that electricity and fertilizer do not become expensive and consumers are not over burdened?

### **Survey on fuel adulteration**

2271. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he was aware of a very reputed NGO-Centre of Science and Environment having done a seminal research to highlight the systematic business of fuel adulteration;

(b) whether the Ministry has ever taken up such a survey of fuel adulteration; and

(c) whether Ministry proposes to eradicate this menace from the country?

### **Import of transport fuel**

2272. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 73 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to canalise the import of transport fuel through companies instead of free import policy; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

### **LPG agencies in Gujarat**

†2273. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC, BPCL, HPCL or IBP propose to start LPG agencies in the cities of Gujarat;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

**Products missing from HPCL  
Refinery**

2274. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the audit authority has found that finished oil products worth Rs. 89 crores went missing from HPCL Mumbai Refinery; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

**Entry of private companies in  
retailing**

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

(a) the names of private oil companies which have been given authorisation for the setting up of retail outlets for petrol;

(b) the number of retail outlets which have been set up by each of those companies; and

(c) whether ONGC has also been allowed to set up retail outlets and if so, the details thereof including the number of such outlets set up so far?

**Major helicopter accidents involving  
ONGC**

2276. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major helicopter accidents involving the staff of ONGC which took place during the last three years;

(b) the number of casualties in each accidents alongwith the details of

compensation given to the next of the kin of the victims; and

(c) the main causes of those crashes and the remedial steps taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents in future?

**On-shore and off-shore oil  
exploration**

2277. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of oil produced in the country both on-shore and off-shore separately as compared to consumption;

(b) whether Government have any concrete plans to increase the total on-shore/off-shore production of oil;

(c) what are the main areas in the country where seismic surveys are being conducted to identify more areas for on-shore/off-shore exploration; and

(d) what are the feedback from these explorations?

**Decontrol of gas price**

2278. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol subsidized gas price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of it on power (electricity) and fertilizer industries?

**Direct sale of domestic gas**

2279. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed to sell domestic cooking gas directly to consumers;



- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether consumers in rural areas will be given preferences in providing this gas; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

#### **Import of LNG from Qatar**

2280. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India's petronet has signed a 25 year deal to import LNG from Qatar based Rasgas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the price formula has been settled and if not, how it would be determined over such a long period;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the prices have been pegged to the price of crude oil and if so, the justification thereof;
- (d) the reasons for not settling the price through gas to gas trade; and
- (e) whether the contract would be scrapped if the Qatar prices are higher than the domestic price?

#### **Illegal encroachment of area of Gandhi Ashram**

†2281. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the area in acres of the Gandhi Ashram situated in the Kingsway Camp and its present status of operation and the activities being run by it;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Ashram is being rented out illegally and a number of other illegal possession and activities have also been going over there; and

- (c) whether Government would like to take steps in order to take the said Ashram in its direct possession and thereby bringing it in its original shape so that its objectives may be fulfilled?

#### **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage**

2282. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) will soon put up information boards in heritage buildings explaining their historic and architectural significance in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to cover monuments situated in other parts of the country; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Fund for Bhagwan Mahavira birth anniversary celebrations**

2283. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:  
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:  
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

- (a) the amount sanctioned for various projects from Rs. 100 crore fund earmarked

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

for Bhagwan Mahavira 2600<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebrations, Statewise and project-wise;

(b) whether any proposal is still to be considered and approved from the above fund;

(c) the progress of projects still not started, State-wise, from the above fund; and

(d) whether any proposal has been considered for an establishment of 'Ahimsa University' in Gujarat?

#### **Cultural exchanges with other countries**

2284. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering cultural exchanges with other countries for the expansion of cultural activities by promoting tourism industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

#### **Displaying of kind of meat served in hotels**

2285. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) whether Sikhs have been demanding that all hotels, restaurants and fast food chains should display the kind of meat served *i.e.*, halal or Jhatka;

(b) if so, the reaction of the multinational eating joints thereto; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

#### **Concessional tour package for students**

2286. MISS MABEL REBELLO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to grant 50 per cent concession to students in packaged tours to historical places;

(b) if so, the details of the project to improve tourism among students; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to develop proper infrastructure to make the country a hub of tourist industry?

#### **Coastal areas as sex tourist sites**

†2287. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coastal areas of Goa, Chennai, Gujarat, West Bengal and Orissa are rapidly transforming into sex tourist sites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what effective steps are being taken by Government to check the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Promotion of tourism and culture in NE Region**

2288. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects on tourism and culture in different States of the North Eastern Region, that are run with assistance from the Central Government and by the State Government alone;

(b) how many of them are the existing projects and how many are to be set up newly; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the involvement of funds from the Central Government and from the State Government, project-wise?

#### **Restoration of original structures in Delhi**

2289. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are allegations against ASI for destroying the original structure in the garb of renovation of old historical monuments in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to restore original shape of old monuments?

#### **Promotion of Wild Life tourism**

2290. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote Wild Life tourism in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent thereon in various projects/schemes; and

(d) what are the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise?

#### **Promotion of heritage hotels and heritage tourism**

2291. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to promote

heritage hotels and heritage tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during last three years State-wise and the assistance extended by the Centre?

#### **Development of spiritual tourism**

2292. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places of pilgrimage which have been selected for and are being developed as Tourist Centres or Centres of Spiritual tourism;

(b) what is the total outlay under the Tenth five year Plan;

(c) what is the total budgetary allocation since the scheme, including the budget for the current year; and

(d) what are the brief particulars of the schemes sanctioned, schemes completed and of the schemes under implementation at each place?

#### **Tourism promotion office in Israel**

2293. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the action taken by Government to set-up a tourism promotion office in Israel to promote cultural and tourism co-operation between the two countries?

#### **Development of infrastructure of tourism in Rajasthan**

2294. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) the details of projects sanctioned since 1999-2000 for development of

infrastructure of tourism in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount sanctioned to the State Government in this regard till date;

(c) the amount utilized by the State Government; and

(d) by when, these projects are likely to be completed?

#### **Promotion of tourism in Nagaland**

2295. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what incentives are being provided by Government for promoting tourism in NE Region; and

(b) what are the areas of focus to improve tourism specially in Nagaland and what is the progress made in this regard?

#### **Renovation work at Red Fort**

†2296. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the renovation work of Red Fort is not in conformity with archaeological norms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Promotion of tourism in Assam**

2297. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the historical materials exposed after excavation of Maidaam No. 2 at Charaideo of Sivasagar District of Assam have not been properly

preserved from the tourist interest point of view; and

(b) whether Government propose to take necessary action to preserve those to promote tourism to this region and interact with the ASI for the purpose?

#### **Monuments of national importance**

2298. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of monuments declared as monuments of national importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, State-wise and monument-wise;

(b) what facilities have been provided by ASI for tourist in and around these monuments; and

(c) what efforts are being made for the conservation of these monuments of South India?

#### **Establishment of Science Cities**

2299. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Science Cities which have been established in the country;

(b) the places where they are established;

(c) the amount released by Government to these Science Cities so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish a Science City in Bangalore; and

(e) if so, what is the present status of the proposal?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Conservation of monumental  
structures in Delhi**

2300. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore and conserve 42 monumental structures in Delhi at tombs of Humayun and Nizamuddin in an integrated manner;

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

(c) whether Government propose to focus on the conservation work at Ghalib Ki Mazar and Urs Mahal etc.; and

(d) whether the project is proposed to be developed on the lines of India Gate by giving it a fascinating walking area?

**Representation from hoteliers and  
travel agents for scrapping service  
tax**

2301. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from hoteliers and travel agents for scrapping of 8 per cent service tax on travel agents; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the representation and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

**Treasures in foreign countries**

2302. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any effort to bring back treasures of India from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government and the results thereof; and

(c) the details of the treasures in different foreign countries?

**Tourist/religious spots in  
Chhattisgarh**

2303. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the Chhattisgarh Government to provide financial assistance for the development of its tourist/religious spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether there are any new tourism projects that have been approved by Government in Chhattisgarh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**National Capital Tourism Circuit**

† 2304. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate National Capital Tourism Circuit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Release of water from Alamatti  
Dam**

2305. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from Andhra Pradesh to take up

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the issue with the Government of Karnataka to release 50 TMC water from Alamatti Dam to meet the water requirements of Rayalaseema and Telangana areas; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

#### **Implementation of Stage-IV Cauvery Water Supply Scheme**

2306. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for implementation of the Stage IV Phase-I of the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme through financial assistance from Japan Bank for International Co-operation during 2003-04; and

(b) if so, what are the details and the present status of the proposal?

#### **Mahadayi diversion project in Karnataka**

2307. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had kept its approval for the Mahadayi diversion project in Karnataka in abeyance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to accord early approval to the above project; and

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

#### **Release of additional water from Krishna**

2308. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested Karnataka for release of additional water from Krishna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Karnataka Government thereto and what was the Central Government's response to intervene and ensure due satisfaction of Andhra Government's demand?

#### **Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam Project**

2309. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita availability of water in cubic meters, State-wise, in the country;

(b) what is the international standard of per capita water to be available to an individual;

(c) whether it is a fact that because of Sardar Sarovar Narmada Dam Project only, the increased per capita water supply of 150 cubic meters would be available to Gujarat; and

(d) in what manner the shortfall of water availability is to be met in the country?

#### **National Water-ways Project**

2310. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Waterways Project has been accepted as

an alternative to the linking of rivers by the expert committee constituted by his Ministry;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to process and expedite it;

(c) what is the stage of National Waterways Project; and

(d) whether Government propose to take over this Project from its originators; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Dam Safety Authority**

2311. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Dam Safety Authority to take care of unsafe dams;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed in this regard?

#### **Right to decommission Dam**

2312. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law empowering State Governments the right to decommission a Dam, if found unsafe by draining out the water stored in its reservoir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not in what manner such unsafe Dams would be looked after?

#### **Flood protection in Assam**

\*2313. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner flood protection of Brahmaputra, and its tributaries will be ensured through the proposal on interlinking of rivers; and

(b) the specific plan, if any, on Brahmaputra under this national project showing benefits to be derived by Assam?

#### **Irrigation projects in Maharashtra**

†2314. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra which got foreign assistance;

(b) the quantum of foreign assistance received during the last three years, plan-wise;

(c) the quantum of amount spent on the irrigation projects in the State during the said period;

(d) the number of irrigation proposal pending with Government and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the said proposals are likely to be approved?

#### **Irrigation projects for Chhattisgarh**

2315. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Chhattisgarh for various irrigation projects to be implemented in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government have given approval of the various irrigation projects as per the said proposals; and

(d) if so, the amount of funds approved by Government for these projects; and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Water supply for agriculture**

2316. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the total water supply in our country is used for agriculture against 70 per cent in the world;

(b) whether considering the large amount of water used for irrigation as India's irrigated area is more than 20 per cent of the world area under irrigation, there is an

urgent need for conservation and efficient use of these resources; and

(c) if so, what are Government's reaction thereon?

#### **Water consumption in Thermal Power Plants**

2317. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent study on water resources in our country, Thermal Power Plants consume 87.87 per cent of the water consumed by the industry;

(b) whether it is fact that this water is consumed inefficiently and the consumption per power unit is 8 times that of international standards and costs a pittance; and

(c) if so, what are Government's reaction thereon?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 17th December, 2003*  
*Agrahayana 26, 1925 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*



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