

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the August 24, 2004/Bhadrapada 2, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 155

New international airport at Ahmedabad

2089. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of
a new international airport at Ahmedabad
is under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would
have the matter examined by a Committee
of Experts?

Expansion of air services from A.P.

2090. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent
various proposals to the Ministry of Civil
Aviation for introduction/increase in
frequency of flights to various destinations
of the world during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by
Government on those proposals?

Withdrawal of tax exemption on leasing of aircrafts

2091. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will
the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any
assessment of the possible impact of
withdrawal of tax exemption for companies
leasing new aircrafts;

(b) the details of loss that has to be
borne by the IA and AI on leasing out their
aircrafts to others; and

(c) what would be the implication of
this move in the next five years on IA and
AI?

Hurdles in privatisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports

2092. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai and Delhi Airports are proposed to be privatised;

(b) if so, the time-frame stipulated therefor;

(c) whether employee unions or other interests are causing hurdles in the process of privatisation of these airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what alternate ways are being considered for the development of these airports so as to bring them at par with the best in the world?

Shifting of Patna Airport

†2093. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that direct Airbus facility between Patna and New Delhi is not available every year from the month of April to August due to relatively shorter length of runway at Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the solution thereof and the action taken by Government so far to solve this problem; and

(c) whether Government are considering to shift the airport at Patna to Bihata or elsewhere as an alternative measure?

Pension to retired AI employees

2094. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India employees, who had retired a decade ago, are yet to receive their pension;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

Open sky pact between India and USA

2095. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are working out open sky pact;

(b) if so, whether US Asstt. Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs had serious discussions with regard to adoption of an open sky agreement between USA and India;

(c) whether US carriers are very interested in India and looking at potential destination;

(d) whether this requires change of bilateral agreement that exists between the two countries governing air services; and

(e) if so, by when an agreement on open sky pact is likely to be signed?

Expansion of Mysore Airport

2096. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the present status of the proposed expansion/renovation of the existing Mysore Airport Project in Karnataka?

Expansion of low-cost airlines

2097. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent expansion of low-cost airlines offering cheaper travel that is affordable for Indian public;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have any plans to promote the industry by way of policies and incentives in the light of the above;

(c) if so, the details of such plans;

(d) whether there are additional plans to upgrade or construct new airports at major cities across India for the low-cost airlines to offer their services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Direct IA flights between Delhi and Hyderabad

2098. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more IA direct flights from Hyderabad to Delhi and other metropolitan cities keeping in view the demands of the people of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider introducing more flights from Hyderabad to Delhi and other important metropolitan cities?

Rent for AAI's properties

†2099. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy in respect of providing the property (hangar, land etc.) of Airports Authority of India to Government for administrative purposes;

(b) in what manner Airports Authority of India determines the rent of barrack and hangar and whether there is any difficulty in allowing the property free of cost for non-commercial purposes; and

(c) whether any proposal for condoning the rent of Kanum Barrack and Hangar of Aerodrome has been forwarded by Madhya Pradesh Government; if so, the action taken thereon?

Maintenance of IA's aircrafts

†2100. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has constituted an Auxiliary Engineering Undertaking for the maintenance of the aircrafts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Aeronautics Museum at Safdarjung Airport

2101. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has any proposal to hand over Safdarjung Airport to the Urban Development Ministry; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it would be appropriate to create an Aeronautics Museum on this land so that people can be made aware of the history of Air Travels, Flying Machines and future possibilities in this field?

Income from privatisation of airports

†2102. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to privatise some of the airports of the country;

- (b) if so, the names of these airports;
- (c) the details regarding their average annual income;
- (d) the reasons for selection of these airports by Government; and
- (e) the financial gain to Government after their privatisation?

Appointments made in AAI

†2103. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 129 appointments were made in Airports Authority of India between the period from October, 1998 to June, 2003;

(b) if not, the actual number of appointments, the names of posts for which such appointments were made and the appointees; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rules regarding these appointments were not followed and if so, the facts thereof?

Review of IA's fleet acquisition plan

2104. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked Indian Airlines to review its fleet acquisition plan; and

(b) if so, whether Indian Airlines has

been asked to keep in mind medium and long haul operations around the world?

Morning flight between Delhi and Guwahati

2105. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a morning flight from Guwahati to Delhi and an afternoon flight from Delhi to Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Amritsar Airport as an international airport

2106. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make Amritsar Airport as an international airport;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the details of progress of the work;

(d) the reasons for the delay; and

(e) by when it is likely to be completed?

Airworthiness check schedule

2107. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any monitoring agency to check/inspect the level of maintenance of private carriers and to maintain the safety standard of national carriers;

(b) if so, the details of schedules of inspections etc.; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have any proposal to provide a better airworthiness check schedule for better safety?

Investigation against Jet Airways

2108. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the investigation pertaining to Jet Airways regarding alleged legality and status of ownership rights, sources of funding the airlines inspite of heavy losses and financial bungling has been concluded;

(b) if so, the outcome of the findings of the investigation; and

(c) the action taken by Government against the airlines based on the above findings, so far?

Multiple designated carrier status

2109. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some initiatives have been taken to prepare an open sky policy that would usher in greater air connectivity between India and the Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof specially the steps taken to ask the Asian nations to grant India the multiple designated carrier status and other related reciprocal rights?

Modernisation of Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad

2110. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad is being modernized and one more aerobridge is being constructed;

(b) if so, the approximate cost thereof; and

(c) whether Airports Authority of India will add such aerobridges for domestic passengers at other airports also; if so, the details thereof?

Winding up of AAI

2111. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to wind up Airports Authority of India Ltd. and create autonomous Regional Airport Authorities in the country as a step to give autonomy to the Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Autonomy to IA and AI

2112. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of providing functional autonomy and a level playing field to Indian Airlines and Air India with the Aviation Sector showing signs of revival;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the equity of Air India and Indian Airlines to make them more viable;

(c) whether Government are looking at merging the operations of Indian Airlines and Air India in the long term; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to synergise their operations?

Air services from Lucknow airport

†2113. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Lucknow airport the destinations for which flights take off nationally as well as internationally from this airport;

(b) whether Government have made any network to link the same with all the State capitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Unfair trade practices

2114. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases relating to unfair trade practices received and disposed off during the last two years;

(b) whether many cases are still pending disposal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when those cases will be disposed off?

Non-scrutiny of cost audit reports

2115. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost audit reports of certain manufacturers of drugs are not consistent with cost accountant record rules;

(b) what are the professional qualifications of officers who prescribe cost accounting record rules;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no scrutiny of cost audit reports received annually is carried out; and

(d) what steps are being taken to tighten the loose ends and by when corrective steps would be taken?

Difficulties in obtaining certificate of TDS

2116. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people whose TDS is compulsorily deducted have to be at the mercy of IT officials to obtain a certificate which is as arduous as getting a tax refund; and

(b) whether Government propose to devise an easier way of providing a receipt to tax payers at the tax deduction source itself?

Limit to cross share holding of banks

2117. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to tighten the cross share holding rules of the entire banking industry;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Transactions by banned institutions in GTB

†2118. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those organisations had been granted permission to transact in Global Trust Bank shares which were put under ban during the last few years;

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

(c) the names of banned organisations which transacted in Global Trust Bank shares togetherwith the amount involved therein; and

(d) whether Government have identified the offenders who are responsible for the said incident and if so, the names thereof?

EFC grants for elementary education

2119. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government supplement and release grants on recommendations received from Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for upgradation of the elementary education;

(b) if so, the details of the funds received from EFC, supplemented by Government and released to the State Governments during the last three years, with number of class rooms added, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that full grants have not been released to some States; and

(d) if so, the details and the present status in this regard and the targeted date for settlement of the claims?

Merger of Charminar Bank of Hyderabad

2120. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has received any request to take over Charminar Bank of Hyderabad or allow it to merge with some other bank in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the RBI not giving any importance to the revival of Charminar Bank of Hyderabad;

(d) whether Government are aware that thousands of depositors and employees are affected by the inaction on the part of RBI; and

(e) the steps proposed to attend to this pressing banking problem in Andhra Pradesh?

Recovery of income tax

†2121. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of income tax outstanding against the taxpayers for the last three years;

(b) the reasons for not recovering the above amount of income tax;

(c) whether Government have formulated a new scheme for strict recovery of the outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loan under LIC Housing Finance

2122. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the LIC Housing Finance had sanctioned 92,400 loans for a total amount of Rs. 4069 crores and disbursed 92,827 loans for a total amount of Rs. 3,668 crores under individual loans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company recorded a net profit of Rs. 167.47 crores in 2003-04 which is lower than previous year's Rs. 178.97 crores;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decline in net profit was due to one-time income in fiscal 2003 which was not available in fiscal 2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fiscal deficit

2123. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IMF has warned India that fiscal deficit should be controlled to sustain the present high growth; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to correct the fiscal imbalances and how far this has been implemented to rein in the fiscal deficit?

Evaluation of the requirement of judicial stamps

2124. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mechanism involved for evaluation of State and Union Territory-wise requirements of judicial and non-judicial stamps and stamp papers, tracking the volumes of instruments delivered, sales proceeds collected at each Treasury and

reconciliation with actual consumption of these instruments;

(b) whether Accountant General of the States and the Union Territories have been carrying out audit/scrutiny of the accounts of the judicial and non-judicial stamps and stamp papers' circulations at regular intervals;

(c) if so, the details of instances of detection of mismatches by them, if any, during the last three years; and

(d) what action has been taken case-wise?

New monetary and credit policy for Co-operative Banks

2125. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Reserve Bank of India for a fresh look at the new monetary and credit policy in so far as it affects the co-operative banking sector in the context of cash crunch faced by the co-operative banks, arising from the requirements of investing a large portion of SLR funds in Government securities;

(b) whether requests have also been received from Co-operative Banking Sector in other States; and

(c) if so, the RBI's response thereto?

India Sovereign Bonds

2126. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to explore fresh investment avenues for growth in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise \$ 5 million from overseas markets in the form of India Sovereign Bonds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the salient features of the proposed India Sovereign Bonds; and

(e) the manner in which the proposed funds are likely to be used?

Assistance to Karnataka by NABARD

2127. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by NABARD to Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the areas where investment has been made and the extent thereof;

(c) whether there has been a continuous fall in the disbursement of loans under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) by NABARD despite increase in the fund every year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to raise RIDF?

Closure of banks

†2128. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks, like Global Trust Bank, in the country which are either on the verge of closure or merger with another bank;

(b) the lessons drawn by RBI from the incident of Global Trust Bank; and

(c) the precautions to be observed by

the public for making investment in private banking sector?

Resource allocation for women

2129. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Women Groups have sought a commitment from him that at least 40 per cent of the resources allocated for various programmes are earmarked for women with proper monitoring arrangements;

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

(c) what is the resource allocation for such programmes for women during the year 2004-05?

Debt burden of Gujarat

2130. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat is facing debt burden arising out of time over-run of the Sardar Sarovar Project due to the factors beyond the control of State Government;

(b) whether a request for funding the additional interest burden has been received by the Central Government from the State Government of Gujarat; and

(c) by when a decision on the proposal is expected?

Nasik Peoples Co-operative Bank

2131. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has imposed moratorium on the operations of the Nasik Peoples Co-operative Bank, recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether any action has been taken against the directors of the Bank?

Infrastructural development

2132. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provided in the Budget of 2003-04 a major thrust to infrastructural development through innovative funding mechanisms;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the areas where such funding could be resorted to; and

(c) the extent of private participation involved therein?

Credit for self-employment

2133. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with Indian Banks Association, has devised a mechanism to provide credit for self-employment to the people below poverty line *e.g.* self-employed technicians, artisans, mechanics, semi-skilled labours, etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the broad features of the scheme, various criteria for coverage of borrowers and the time-frame for its implementation?

Special teams for private commercial banks

2134. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has a proposal to depute special teams to examine the books and oversee the functioning of all private commercial banks operating in the country and order for special audit of all banks to avoid the situation that arose in respect of the Global Trust Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

RRBs in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

2135. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks working in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the performance of these banks during the last three years; and

(c) the details thereof, branch-wise and year-wise?

Investment Commission

2136. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision for setting up an Investment Commission;

(b) whether experts have felt that setting up of an Investment Commission is a

positive step for improving the investment climate in the country;

(c) if so, who are its members; and

(d) by when the Commission is likely to start functioning?

Investment in infrastructure development

2137. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total investment in infrastructure development in relation to the GDP dropped from 5.4 per cent in 1993-94 to 3.7 per cent in 2002-03;

(b) whether according to the economic survey there was substantial progress in some areas and the broad outlines appeared to be falling into place;

(c) if so, whether enormous financial investment was needed to bring India's infrastructure up to world standards; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve Government's infrastructure which has dropped tremendously?

Decline in rural credit

2138. SHRIMATIPREMACARIAPPA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural credit given directly to the farmers has

declined over the last three years;

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

(c) the number of branches of Nationalised Banks in the rural areas in 1998 and the number as on 31st March, 2004; and

(d) what measures are proposed to correct regional imbalance in the disbursal of rural credit?

Decline in Foreign Exchange Reserve

†2139. SHRIMATI KUM KUMRAI:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange reserve is declining rapidly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely effects of this decline on the economic scenario of the country?

Externally-aided projects for Tripura

2140. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many externally-aided projects are there in different States as sanctioned during 2001-02 to 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) how many of them relate to the North-Eastern States;

(c) whether it is a fact that not a single EAP has been sanctioned for Tripura; and

(d) the proposals received from Government of Tripura and the action taken on the proposals?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.