

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 26, 2005/Sravana 4, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 130

Tax exemption on leasing of aircrafts

99. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

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

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

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

Development of civil aviation in Jammu and Kashmir and Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 14.05
crore is proposed to be spent in the civil
aviation sector in Jammu and Kashmir
region to promote tourism etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a proposal is also
under consideration for the cash-strapped
Orissa State, which has a good potential
for tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of air services

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

(a) the number of cities in the country
which are not connected by air services/
helicopter services;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start
new air services to the cities where no air
services are available;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when
such new air services would start;

(d) if not, the specific reasons therefor?

Discussion with Planning Commission

102. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY
SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of
CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions between his Ministry and the Planning Commission were held recently on various issues concerning his Ministry apart from the issue of under-capitalisation of AI and IA;

(b) if so, the details of discussions, held with the Planning Commission; and

(c) what is the outcome of the discussions so held?

Complaints on acquisition of aircrafts

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

(a) whether Government have received complaints from certain MPs regarding acquisition of fleet of aircrafts by Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

Scam in deployment of Private security personnel at IGIA, Delhi

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

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has recently unearthed a scam in deployment of private security personnel at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details of the investigation; and

(c) the names of the officials found involved in the scam and the action taken against them?

Regularisation of ground staff in IA

105. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ground staff employed in Indian Airlines have not been regularised even after four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Air connectivity between important cities

†106. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken several vital decisions for the air connectivity of important cities;

(b) if so, the names of cities provided with air connectivity in the last one year; and

(c) the number of cities being considered by Government for providing air connectivity during the year 2005-06 alongwith the details thereof?

New international airport at Noida

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

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the prescribed distance norms for international airports and to construct a new international airport at Noida in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, by when its construction is targeted to be commenced?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coordination with IAF for use of air space

108. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to use more air space which is in the control of Indian Air Force by coordinating with them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Augmentation of infrastructure at airports

109. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private and public sector airlines have placed orders for purchase of a large number of commercial aircrafts from different foreign sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether airports in India have all the necessary infrastructure and grounding space to meet the requirement of increased number of aircrafts; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Creation of slot pool for new airlines

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to create a "slot pool" for new airlines entering into the sector looking at the unprecedented rise in air traffic and related congestion at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the new system to cater for a single-window clearance would be handled by airport operators; and

(d) how the proposed move would help to create a level-playing field between the public sector airlines and the private sector?

Upgradation of Rajasansi Airport

111. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Rajasansi Amritsar Airport into an ultra modern airport;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work thereon has been held up, if so, the reasons therefor and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon so far?

Strengthening of AI

112. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to come out with an Initial Public Offering (IPO) for Air India in order to strengthen Air India and make it capable of competing with other International Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Government propose to make the IPO public;

(d) the sectors in which Air India propose to operate after acquisition of 50 Boeing planes; and

(e) the time by which these Boeings will be acquired fully?

Expansion of air services in Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding expansion and improvement of air services in view of the vast potential of development of industries and tourism in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on these proposals?

Development of Civil Aviation sector

114. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive road map for the development of civil aviation sector is being prepared;

(b) if so, the outline thereof together with its present status;

(c) the details of the areas identified for focussed attention and thrust to make air travel affordable and hassle-free and also to improve the operation efficiency of the aviation industry so as to face competition from the private airlines; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ascertain the views of the various concerned interests in formulating the new road map?

Sale of AI and IA's equity to staff

115. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to sell Air

India and Indian Airlines equity to staff and small investors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of equity proposed to be sold to each category, the price thereof and by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

Status of Pune Airport as an international airport

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

(a) whether Government are considering to accord the status of international airport to Pune Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are taking a decision to start air service between Pune and Sharjah keeping in view the large number of persons of the area employed in Gulf countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Agreements under open sky policy

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

(a) the names of the new countries with which Government have entered into an agreement under open sky policy; and

(b) the details thereof?

Permission for air ambulance service

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

(a) whether Government have accorded permission to a few hospitals to launch air

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ambulance service keeping in view their demand for providing quicker treatment; and

(b) if so, the names of such hospitals?

Air service between Guwahati and Thimphu

119. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to operate Air Service from Guwahati to Thimphu (Bhutan);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expansion of Palam Airport

120. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Palam Airport is struggling to handle the low cost airline boom;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the airport is also unable to handle the large number of passengers; and

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

Wet lease agreement between AI and Jet Airways

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

(a) what are the terms and conditions of the wet lease agreement signed between Air India and Jet Airways;

(b) whether proper tender procedure has been followed before signing the agreement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would refer the matter to CBI for thorough investigation and if not, reasons therefor?

Expansion of air services in North-eastern States

†122. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme is under consideration for expansion of air services keeping in view the transportation facilities in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of airports suitable for air services in North-Eastern States and the number of airports available there and the condition of the same?

New Company Act

123. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are enacting a new Company Act incorporating the suggestions made by the J.J. Irani Committee wherein sweeping changes are contemplated to make the new Company Act simpler and providing a single window clearance mechanism for mergers etc.;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Bill will be introduced and whether views of the FICCI, CII and similar bodies will be duly taken into consideration; and

(c) whether the new Bill will also contain provisions so that minority interests are protected during mergers and takeovers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Restructuring of Competition Commission

124. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Competition Commission is being restructured vesting only non-judicial powers with the Panel;

(b) what will be the interests represented in the Commission;

(c) whether there will be an appellate body with adjudicatory functions; and

(d) what is the time frame to bring about these structural changes?

Establishment of Centres of Corporate Excellence

125. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has established or is considering to establish Centres of Corporate Excellence (CCE) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with names of the States where CCEs have been established or proposed to be established and terms and conditions governing establishment of the CCEs;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for establishment of a CCE in Bangalore with offers of adequate fund or land; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

Filing of returns by companies

126. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of companies which are not filing their statutory returns with Registrars of Companies;

(b) if so, the number of such companies during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the filing of the returns by these companies?

Special Purpose Vehicle to finance infrastructure projects

127. SHRI RAMA MUNIREDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI MURLI DEORA:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to form a Special Purpose Vehicle to fuel infrastructure was mooted in the 2005-06 Budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when, it is likely to be set up?

Slow down of economy

128. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has cautioned Government that the economy was slowing down and is likely to register a lower growth rate this year;

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

(c) whether Government have any proposal for appropriate intervention with some fresh policy initiatives so as to boost up the growth rate and if so, the details thereof?

Tax scrutiny of top hundred companies

129. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently undertaken the tax scrutiny of top one hundred companies in the country on the basis of advance tax collections due in June, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results of the exercise?

Payment of income tax exceeding one crore rupees

130. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any record of the number of individuals who paid income tax exceeding rupees one crore annually during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the names of top 500 individuals who paid the highest amount of income tax during these three years?

Cut in Central Sales Tax rate

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

(a) whether the Central Government propose to cut in the Central Sales Tax rate during fiscal year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the revenue collection is zooming in States which have adopted the VAT and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the States adopting VAT has made any claims for revenue losses and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, steps taken to bring the remaining States to adopt VAT?

Auction of bad loans of banks

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

(a) whether the ICICI and State Bank of India have sold bad loans to the Asset Reconstruction Company of India Limited (ARCIL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the discounted price at which the bad loans have been sold to ARCIL by ICICI, the State Bank of India and other banks, if any;

(c) whether ARCIL propose to auction these bad loans of Indian banks in the financial markets;

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set any norms for banks keen on purchasing bad loans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Action against defaulters of banks

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

(a) whether the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) has made public the names of defaulters who had taken big loans from banks but are not paying it;

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

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to take for recovery of

banks dues from them or to take legal action in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Mauritius discussed about the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty recently in the light of abolition of long-term capital gains tax; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Loans to poor people

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide loan for the poor people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Grievances of credit card holders

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

(a) whether following widespread complaints from credit card holders, RBI has come out with certain guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far the guidelines issued by RBI in May, 2003 have helped in removing the grievances of the card holders?

Penalty on companies

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have slapped tax penalty of 10,000 crores on certain companies; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies and amount of penalty imposed on them?

Performance of Kisan Credit Card Scheme

138. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued to farmers till date since its inception, year-wise;

(b) the number of farmers in the country eligible for Kisan Credit Cards;

(c) the amount of money advanced to farmers under this scheme, year-wise; and

(d) by when Government expect to cover all the farmers of the country under this scheme?

Slow economic growth rate

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's overall economic growth, as measured by its GDP, has slowed down to 6.9 per cent in 2004-05 as compared to 8.5 per cent in the previous fiscal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth rate in agriculture during 2004-05 has plummeted to 1.1 per cent as compared to 9.6 per cent in 2003-04; and

(c) if so, the reason for such a lower growth rate?

Tax exemption under export promotion schemes

†140. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exemption of Rs. 39,704 crores has been provided through taxes under the export promotion schemes during the year 2004-05;

(b) if not, the actual amount of this exemption; and

(c) the estimated percentage of the exemptions against the total recovery of import tax?

Group of Ministers for public investments

141. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has set up a 10-Member Group of Ministers headed by him for alternative decision making process on investments, particularly public investments;

(b) whether a proposal was submitted by Minister of Power regarding delays caused in taking decisions on investment in power projects; and

(c) if so, what are the main alternatives issued to the proposed committee and to what extent this committee will be helpful in taking immediate decision on investments?

Loans to small and medium enterprises

†142. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a plan to provide long term loans to small and medium enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Provision of loans at low interest rate to farmers

†143. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that there is a need to provide more and more loans at less rate of interest than common rate of interest to agricultural sector along with the small and medium entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether this will have any impact on the rate of GDP;

(d) whether Government have chalked out any outlines in this regard; and

(e) if not, the concrete steps Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Market for securities and derivatives

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Securities Contract Regulation Act, 1956 and Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to develop market for securities and derivatives;

(b) if so, whether this will help financial sector reforms;

(c) whether the report card also included Pensions Reforms Bill and the changes introduced in the Pension Scheme system for recruits to Government; and

(d) if so, by when these proposed acts are likely to be amended?

Loans to farmers

†145. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loans given to farmers out of loans given by the Public Sector Banks and details of last three years in this regard, year-wise;

(b) the percentage of loans recovered out of loans given to farmers;

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of loans; and

(d) whether many farmers have been committing suicide in the country due to their inability to pay bank loans?

Raising of revenues through disinvestment of PSUs

146. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to raise Rs. 10,000 crore through disinvestment programme during the current fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including public sector undertakings proposed to be covered by the disinvestment programme and resources proposed to be raised from each;

(c) whether the various constituents of the UPA Government have been consulted and their consent obtained to the proposed disinvestment programmes; and

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

Loan disbursed by banks in Nagaland

147. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of loans granted by all the Nationalised Banks, private banks and foreign banks during the last three years for the development of agriculture and small scale industries in the State of Nagaland, district-wise and bank-wise?

Measures to control inflation

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to work out certain measures to control inflation and borrowings to promote growth;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the action plan of Government to make tax administration customer friendly?

Guidelines for merger of private banks

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that RBI has laid down certain guidelines for private banks' merger and amalgamation; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in bank credit to agricultural sector

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

- (a) whether Government have announced to double the bank credit to agricultural sector in the next three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the financial institutions, including commercial, rural and co-operative banks have failed to reach even half of the farming families in India, over the years;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether still a large number of farmers continue to depend on money-lenders, commission agents and other sources to meet their credit needs; and
- (f) what measures Government propose to take to help farmers in meeting their credit needs?

Gold import by private companies and jewellers

151. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to allow gold import by private companies and jewellers;

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

Growth rate target

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 8 per cent growth was targeted in the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in the recently held NDC meeting it was made clear that India cannot achieve 8 per cent growth rate in the Tenth Plan;
- (c) what was the growth rate in the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (d) apart from drought what are the reasons for not achieving 8 per cent growth rate in the first three years of the Tenth Plan; and
- (e) the rate of growth likely to be achieved in 2005-06?

Allocation of funds to Andhra Pradesh

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

- (a) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has not allocated any funds to Andhra Pradesh for education and health sectors;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has made any representation in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

New branches of Co-operative Banks

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

(a) the number of branches of Co-operative societies functioning at present in the country, State-wise/location-wise;

(b) the number of branches of these banks proposed to be set up in each State during the fiscal year 2005-06, location-wise/State-wise;

(c) the details of funds likely to be spent on opening new branches of the above banks; and

(d) the details of facilities being provided to the people of rural areas by these banks?

Fiscal deficit

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

(a) the details of fiscal deficits in the Central Budget during the last three years;

(b) the details of actual plan expenditure during this period; and

(c) what necessary action has been taken by Government to achieve the objectives of the Budget?

High cost transactions imposed on retail customers

156. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken note of the high cost of transactions imposed by private and foreign banks on retail consumers and also the non-disclosures of several hidden charges on retail loans like housing and automobile loans; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to bring about transparency in these aspects?

RBI's directives against money laundering

157. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI in co-ordination with SEBI and IRDA has issued stringent directives for banks to check money laundering and terror funding;

(b) if so, what are the directives that have been issued by RBI to banks; and

(c) what mechanism do the banks have to track down suspicious transactions?

Increase in prices and inflation

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in price hike has not been equal to the increase in inflation rate during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is affecting the purchasing power of the common man in the country?

Absorption of the GTB employees in OBC

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

(a) whether the National Institute of Bank Management had submitted its recommendations for absorption of the erstwhile employees of Global Trust Bank in the Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b) if so, the details of pay scale recommended for each cadre;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether employees have since been absorbed in terms of the above recommendations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when they would be finally absorbed?

Insurance sector in rural areas

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

(a) the extent of outreach of the Insurance sector, life and general, separately in rural areas;

(b) what is the ratio of public and private sector insurance companies in this regard;

(c) how many insurance claims in rural areas were settled during the year 2003 and 2004; and

(d) whether the claim procedures are simplified and the instructions thereto are also in the language of the state concerned, in addition to English/Hindi as the rural population are comparatively less educated?

New provision in Income Tax law for savings

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

(a) whether, in view of the new provision made in the Income Tax law that savings upto one lakh of rupees be reduced from the total income, Government propose to allow the investors, option to make total investment of savings in accounts like PPF etc.; and

(b) if so, by when the suitable amendments of related rules are likely to be made?

Poor services of State Bank of Patiala, Karnal

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of Patiala has a branch/extension counter in the premises of National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the bank is totally understaffed with the result that the existing staff do not render satisfactory and courteous service to the bank's clients, particularly the young scientists of NDRI, causing a lot of inconvenience to them; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to enhance the staff-strength of the bank and ensure prompt and proper service to the bank's clients?

Simplification of Income Tax norms

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal to simplify income tax norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Loans disbursed to educated unemployed youths

†164. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money disbursed by various banks to the educated unemployed youths during the year 2004-05 for starting their business;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bank employees charge substantial amount in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

form of commission from the applicants while disbursing loans; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are considering to take to check such kind of commission?

Provision of insurance services to lower income group

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the outreach of insurance schemes and products of the domestic and the foreign insurance companies are limited mainly to the urban areas and that confined to higher and middle classes;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for bringing these insurance schemes and products within the reach of the people of rural areas and lower income groups; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Tax on buying second car

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to impose tax for buying more than one car;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this is likely to have adverse impact on automobile industries?

Declaration of defaulters of banks

†167. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount involved in the Non Performing Assets till 31st March 2005 in the country;

(b) whether he would consider to declare the persons who have not repaid the loans taken from Public Sector Banks and other financial institutions or defaulted willfully, as economic offenders publish their list and set up special courts for the speedy disposal of such cases; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, reasons therefor?

Rate of interest on loans for agriculture sector

†168. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector and private banks are providing loans at less rate of interest to agricultural sector, if so, what is the interest rate;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Co-operative Banks of the country are not providing loans at the same low rate of interest to agricultural sector at which other banks are providing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps being taken by Government to provide loans at minimum and uniform rate of interest to the farmers by the banks of all sectors in the country?

Financial crisis in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that the State Government of Bihar is facing serious financial crunch and it's economy is under precarious situation;

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

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent report of World Bank on Bihar's financial status;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what are the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken for the development of Bihar?

Rise in ceilings of banking assets

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to permit foreign banks to raise the ceiling of banking assets from 15 per cent to 25 per cent and to open more branches incrementally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) its likely impact on Public Sector Banks in India?

Increase in FDI in various projects

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a consistent and steady increase in Foreign Direct Investment in India;
- (b) if so, the details of projects in different sectors where FDI is more than \$ 100 million and its ratio to the total cost of the project;
- (c) the status of repatriation of profit earned by Foreign Direct Investors during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and
- (d) the details of major cases where profit shares of FDI are reinvested in India as fresh FDI?

Raise in FDI cap in domestic aviation sector

172. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have raised the FDI cap from 40 per cent to 49 per cent by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in domestic aviation sector;

- (b) if so, what is the effective date of the cabinet decision to the above proposal;

- (c) whether there is any ambiguity as far as the status of NRIs and PIOs are concerned especially after issue of Citizenship Ordinance, 2005 on June 28, 2005; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Non payment of loans by companies

†173. SHRIMATIPREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI JANARDAN
DWIVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of those companies which have not repaid loans borrowed from Public Sector Banks;

- (b) the names of Banks from which the loan was borrowed by each of companies and when such loan was borrowed alongwith the amount of loan borrowed and the details of outstanding amount with interest against each company as on date;

- (c) whether any action has been taken so far by Government for the recovery of loan from the said companies alongwith the outcome thereof; and

- (d) if not, the concrete steps Government are going to take or have taken so far to recover loan from abovesaid companies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Losses suffered due to VAT

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have reported loss in their revenue earnings in the first quarter of implementation of VAT;

(b) if so, the details of States which have incurred losses in the first quarter of implementation of VAT;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for compensating the revenue loss due to implementation of VAT; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard so far?

Establishment of rural business hubs

175. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish rural business hubs;

(b) if so, the details including the States selected for the above, criteria adopted for selection, the sectors selected and the proposed period of implementation of the above rural business hubs;

(c) the details regarding the response asked from various States and the response received from the States as on today, State-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the details of financial and technical support provided/proposed to be given to States, State-wise and category-wise as on today?

Sale of liquor at petrol pumps

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the petrol pumps in the Capital have got licences to sell liquor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the permission of Government was sought in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for granting the permission to petrol pumps?

Use of LPG as alternative fuel

†177. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to explore the use of LPG as alternative fuel in backward and hilly areas of the country specially in Orissa in order to protect environment and prevent constant deforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when Government would consider the same and explore the possibility in this regard?

CNG centres in Chhattisgarh

†178. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG centres opened in various States for utilization of the vehicles;

(b) whether there is any CNG distribution centre in any city of Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons for not opening CNG distribution centre in Chhattisgarh;
- (e) the time limit fixed for opening CNG distribution centre in Chhattisgarh; and
- (f) the details thereof?

Tax on petroleum products

†179. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of taxation on petroleum products in the country is more than that of other South Asian Countries;

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

(c) the names of the South Asian countries where tax rate on petrol and diesel is lower than in India?

Oil prices in international market

†180. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had increased the consumer sale price of petrol and diesel in the country in the mid of June, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price rise was the result of taxation imposed on petroleum products in the Annual Budget for the year 2005-06 alongwith the increase in the price of crudes in international market; and

(c) if so, the extent of increase effected

in the price of petrol and diesel as a result of above reasons?

Fixation of oil prices

†181. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been estimated that the basic price (production price) of petrol and diesel is Rs. 17.5 per litre and Rs. 18.53 per litre respectively;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that petrol and diesel are sold at much high price than the above mentioned price to general consumer of the country;

(d) if so, the details regarding maximum and minimum prices for the same; and

(e) the reasons for so much difference in production cost and selling price?

IOC's business strategies

†182. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation is formulating a plan to boost its business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status of the business of Indian Oil Corporation at present;

(d) whether any target has been fixed to boost the business by the company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Restructuring of excise duties on petroleum products

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

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas has called upon the Government to restructure the excise duties on the petroleum products to neutralize the impact of the soaring international crude prices on the oil market companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter seriously with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Finance thereto?

Krishnamurthy Committee report

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Krishnamurthy Committee on Synergy in Energy has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of recommendations given by the Committee for merger of public sector oil companies in the country?

Transportation of gas from Myanmar

185. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has cleared a pipeline through its territory for transporting gas to India from Myanmar where ONGC and GAIL have stakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the transit fee that India has to pay to Bangladesh for allowing the pipeline and transporting gas through their territory?

Mega export-oriented refinery

186. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a mega export-oriented refinery, with a 50-60 million tonne per annum capacity, to be built by the oil PSUs in collaboration with some leading international companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

Relief from rise in oil prices

†187. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscriminate and record increase in the prices of diesel and petrol has been made in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts Government are making to provide relief to people from the burden continuously increasing on them?

Gas discoveries in the Bay of Bengal

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

(a) whether the recent Gas discoveries in the Bay of Bengal in the offshore blocks have created a buzz in the oil and gas market;

(b) whether geologists project that these gas reserves on the East Coast would

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

surpass the gas reserves on South Coast; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon?

Purchase agreement with Iran for LNG supply

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

(a) whether India and Iran has signed the Sales Purchase Agreement for LNG supplies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where this gas will be utilized;

(c) whether Iran has also exploration blocks for OVL and IOC plans to set up LNG plants and Petro Chemical Companies there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Overseas gas pipeline projects

190. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has weighed possible political risks over the proposed Indo-Iranian pact on supply of natural gas pipe overland *via* Pakistan;

(b) whether India has also taken due note of US apprehensions over the proposed Indo-Iranian gas supply pact and of the possible US sanctions over Iran threatening the implementation of the project; and

(c) the status of other overland gas pipeline projects being negotiated with Turkmenistan and Myanmar?

Exploration of oil and gas in Gujarat

191. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for exploration of gas and oil in the Gujarat Region keeping in view the availability of oil and gas reserves there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the project?

Export of petroleum products

192. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products earned over Rs. 25,000 crores during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, what was the percentage share of Public Sector Undertakings and Private Oil Companies in these export earnings;

(c) whether Government are developing India as a petro export hub to promote export of finished oil products;

(d) if so, what is the anticipated export earnings from petroleum products during 2005-06; and

(e) what were the actual export earnings during 1st April, 2005 to 30th June, 2005?

Implementation of SEZ project at Mangalore

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

(a) whether it is a fact that towards

implementation of the Special Economic Zone Project at Mangalore, Karnataka, ONGC proposes to divide various aspects of the project among various other public sector oil and power companies;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that this exercise would result in cost escalation and time overrun; and

(d) if so, what actions are proposed to be taken to ensure adherence to time schedule and cost factor?

Impact of revision in duties on oil companies

194. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tax burden has increased by Rs. 2.52 per litre on petrol and Rs. 1.53 per litre on diesel as a result of the changes in the excise duty in the last Budget;

(b) whether the increase in road cess from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00 per litre on petrol and diesel has further added to the tax burden on these products; and

(c) the financial burden cast per month on the public sector oil companies as a result of these changes in taxes?

Policy on acquisition of overseas oil equity

195. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are following an aggressive policy of acquiring oil equity abroad; and

(b) if so, the concrete results achieved so far?

Violation of Marketing Discipline Agreement

†196. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of violation of Marketing Discipline Guidance and Distributorship Agreement registered during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases out of the same in which there has been conviction; and

(c) the action taken and the form in which it has been taken against the accused in conviction cases?

Misuse of petroleum products

197. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in the use of petrol and petroleum products in the country annually;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment to know the areas of misuse of petroleum products in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to stop such misuse?

Exploration of petroleum and natural gas

198. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing petroleum and natural gas exploration in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of sites where oil/gas has been struck afresh; and

(c) the target production of oil and gas during the Tenth Plan period?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Supply of diesel to Pakistan

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

- (a) whether Government propose to supply diesel to Pakistan at cheaper rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what is the logic of providing diesel to Pakistan on low rates while prices of diesel in India are high and there is an indication of likely increase in the prices of diesel?

Draft order on oil refinery output

200. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had drafted an order stating that seven per cent of oil refinery output should be kerosene;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Law Ministry has not agreed with this order; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Losses suffered by IOC

201. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that IOC has suffered a loss of Rs. 4900 crores in revenue during the first quarter of the current fiscal year;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that out of Rs. 4900 crores loss, roughly Rs. 2700 crores was on sale of kerosene and domestic cooking gas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Agreements in refineries and gas sector

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

- (a) the details of agreements made by Government recently with Iran and other countries in refineries and gas sector;
- (b) to what extent our country would be benefited through these agreements in the coming years;
- (c) whether Government are getting any threat/cautions after these agreements; and
- (d) if so, what is Government's response thereon?

Co-operation with Turkey in oil sector

‡203. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering any proposal to extend co-operation with Turkey in the field of oil and gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent of benefits in economic and employment generation sectors that are likely to be achieved by the same?

India as a Petro-hub

‡204. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make India a Petro-hub;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) to what extent India is likely to be benefited thereby?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Inclusion of Natural Gas in the Union List

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently ruled that Natural Gas is a Central subject;

(b) if so, the details of the ruling given by Supreme Court on the subject Natural Gas;

(c) whether this ruling make some of the legislations made by some States *ultra vires*; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan to amend the Constitution to include Natural Gas in the Union List?

Misuse of domestic LPG cylinders

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

(a) whether CNG and LPG are the economical alternative fuel to petrol and diesel for use in motor vehicles;

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

(c) whether any guidelines and approved workstations exist for conversion of petrol/diesel vehicles into CNG/LPG vehicles;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that most of the private vehicles ply on domestic LPG cylinders fitted by local unapproved mechanics, thereby endangering the life and property of the passengers and others around; and

(f) if so, what measures are contemplated to educate and prevent such misuse?

Monsoon tourism

207. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism in India provides over 25 million direct jobs though India's share in global tourism is dismal and stood at 0.4%;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the CII has proposed monsoon tourism to provide a fillip to the industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Growth in Tourism industry in Southern Region

208. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey carried out by Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region has revealed that the tourism sector posted the highest growth of 25 per cent last year;

(b) whether the objective of the survey was to analyse the performance of the top five sectors in each of these States during 2004-05 and identify their issues and concerns;

(c) whether tourism industry in Kerala reported an over 25 per cent growth in profits in 2004-05 despite tsunami threat;

(d) if so, what are the other main features of the study and whether Government have considered the survey report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Development of tourism in Uttaranchal

209. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Uttaranchal propose to go all-out to develop its tourism sector for economic prosperity of the area;
- (b) if so, the details of their action plan;
- (c) the details to financial and other help that has been rendered to the State to achieve the objective;
- (d) whether Government also propose to extend such help to the cash-strapped Orissa to exploit its tourism potential to improve its economy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Development of pilgrim spots in Nagaland

210. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop pilgrim spots as major tourist attraction in the State of Nagaland;
- (b) if so, the name of each place to be developed in the State; and
- (c) the details of the development to be undertaken by Government?

Setting up of Night Bazaar at Hyderabad

211. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of tourists visited various States during the last financial year, State-wise;
- (b) the flow of tourists during the last three years to the State of Andhra Pradesh, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up night bazaar at Hyderabad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Incredible India Campaign

212. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of tourists went out from India to other tourist destinations of the world during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the number of tourist arrivals into the country during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Indians going abroad are more than the foreign tourists coming into India;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) what exactly is the message the Ministry wanted to convey through Incredible India Campaign;
- (f) when the Incredible India Campaign started through print and electronic media; and
- (g) the amount spent on Incredible India Campaign so far?

Tourism potential in NE Region

213. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge tourism potential in the North-Eastern Region particularly in the State of Assam;
- (b) if so, the place-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for promotion of tourism

†214. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide economic assistance to States to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to States by Government to promote tourism during last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that allocation of funds to tourism sector has increased during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of hotels and hostels in NCT of Delhi for Commonwealth Games

†215. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the special arrangements being made for construction of hotels and hostels in National Capital Territory of Delhi for Common Wealth Games and to attract the tourists;

(b) the arrangements being made by the Ministry to mobilise financial sources in the next three years alongwith the amount provided by Central Government; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard alongwith the details thereof?

Irregularities in the purchase of whisky by ITDC

216. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has

noticed irregularities in the purchase of 20 thousand whisky bottles at inflated prices by some officers of the ITDC in 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the officers of the ITDC, found involved in the fraudulent deal;

(d) whether this case has since been referred to the CBI for investigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in the investigation so far?

New aspects of tourism

217. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of new aspects of tourism such as eco-tourism;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote such tourism; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose in the current budget?

Per capita availability of water

218. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita availability of water in 1951 was 5200 metric cubes which has fallen to 1820 metric cubes in 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Planning Commission has sounded alarm on water front; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Survey on flood areas

†219. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGHMAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact many areas of
the country are flooded every year during
the rainy season;

(b) if so, whether Government have
conducted any survey and identified those
areas which are flooded almost every year;
and

(c) if so, the names of these areas and
extent of additional water which comes in
every area due to flood?

Unused water reservoirs

†220. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGHMAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government by conducting
survey, have identified the number of such
water reservoirs which are not being used
as reservoirs for the last one decade;

(b) if so, the number of such reservoirs,
State-wise;

(c) the number of water reservoirs
which have been selected by Government
for renovation, State-wise; and

(d) by when, this renovation work will
be completed?

Water reserves in the country

†221. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 76
big water reserves in the country;

(b) if not, the number of these reserves
indicating the States and places all over the
country and sources through which water
gets filled in them;

(c) whether the water reserve capacity
of these is fully utilised every year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the
quantity of water utilised for irrigation from
each of these reserves every year?

Scarcity of water for irrigation

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a
scarcity of water for irrigation in the
country;

(b) if so, the status of irrigation water
at present, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have prepared
or going to prepare any plan to increase
the number of reservoirs for irrigation
water in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Project reports on two prioritized
links**

223. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-
CHARYA:

SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH:

Will the Minister of WATER
RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

answer to Starred Question 99 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 2004 and state:

(a) the progress achieved so far in the preparation of detailed project reports with regard to the two prioritized links viz. Ken-Behoa and Parbale-Kalisindh-Chambal under peninsular component; and

(b) if answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reason therefor and by when the same is likely to be finalized?

Restoration of water bodies

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

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for restoration of existing water bodies (Tanks) directly linked to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to clear the proposal?

Linking of rivers

†225. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are facing heavy floods with the onset of the Monsoon this year;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to draw special strategy or action plan to get rid of the flood problem in the country; and

(c) whether solution of the flood problem is possible by linking all the rivers of the country?

Excess nitrate in water

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

(a) whether a report by the Central Ground Water Board has revealed nitrate concentration in excess of the admissible limit in water in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether consumption of such contaminated water causes cancer or damages the nervous system;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the action initiated to provide safe water in the affected areas, with allocation of funds for the purpose?

Maintaining level of underground water

227. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'NCR KE SAAT BLOCKON KA BHUMIGATJAL KHATARNAK SATAR PAR', appeared in the media;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) the steps taken to maintain satisfactory level of underground water;

(d) whether it is a fact that large scale illegal boring activities are taking place in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the above said districts despite imposing ban on boring activities; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to identify those new bores and to take action against them?

Repair of breaches in Assam

228. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of breaches of embankment which have been repaired in

Assam after last year's devastation due to floods;

(b) the amount of money released to the State Government during the last one year for Brahmaputra flood control programmes;

(c) what steps have been taken to control erosion of the River Brahmaputra in the places like Dibrugarh, Nogaun, Marigaun and Palasbari; and

(d) whether there is any danger in places like Marigaun and Palasbari, if so, what steps have been taken to protect the lives and properties of those areas?

NEW DELHI;
The 20th July, 2005

Asadha 29, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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