

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the November 26, 2002/Agrahayana 5, 1924 (Saka)*

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

### Total number of questions—155

#### Removal of mosque from the airport

610. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Airport mosque poses security threat" which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi dated the 13th October, 2002;

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

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to remove the mosque from the airport in view of increased security threat to aircrafts landing at the airport?

#### Permission to foreign airlines for enhancing passenger capacity

611. 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 open skies during the peak winter season *i.e.* from December, 2002 to February, 2003 due to rush in traffic during the above period;

(b) whether Government are also

thinking of giving permission to some of the foreign airlines to enhance their capacity of passengers and frequency beyond the bilateral rights;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the airlines to which permission has been given?

#### Hindi/English newspapers and magazines in IA

† 612. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers and magazines in Hindi and English being given to passengers on board in the Indian Airlines;

(b) what is the comparative percentage of the supply of the newspapers and magazines in Hindi and English;

(c) whether the percentage of Hindi is quite low in comparison to that of English;

(d) whether it is in contravention of the Constitutional rights of the official language Hindi; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal to increase the supply of Hindi newspapers and magazines?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Passenger facilities at  
IGIA**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set three deadlines—September 30, December 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003 for carrying out various improvements in the facilities for passengers at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the various items included in the three lists to be completed within the time-limit fixed for each;

(c) whether the various improvements scheduled to be finished by 30th September, 2002 has since been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Hijack attempt on Air  
Seychelles**

614. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:  
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hijack attempt on board a scheduled Air Seychelles flight from Mumbai to Seychelles *via* Male has been investigated;

(b) if so, what are the results of the findings;

(c) what action has been taken against those responsible for the security lapse; and

(d) the steps taken to make security check at airports more foolproof?

**Purchase of New Aircrafts by AI for  
US operation**

615. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:  
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:  
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India would buy 17 aircraft for U.S. operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total cost involved and by when the new fleet will be operational;

(d) the details of the total aircraft that are in operation in Air India;

(e) whether Government have studied the profits of U.S. operations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

**Hijacking bid**

616. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got the reports from the Mauritius Government about the recent hijacking bid by an Indian;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crew of the Air Mauritius flight overacted and termed the whole incident as a hijacking bid; and

(c) if so, the action taken to sort the issue with the Mauritian Government?

**Reduction of Seats in flights between  
Agartala and Kolkata**

617. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total

number of seats per week has been reduced in the flights between Agartala and Kolkata on account of revision of the programme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reduced number of seats in the flights in the event of reduction of flights of the air-bus cannot cope with the heavy rush of passengers; and

(c) whether the whole thing will be reviewed and steps would be taken to increase the number of flights of air-bus as well as the number of seats over a week?

#### **Impact of new Civil Aviation Policy**

618. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the new Civil Aviation Policy, private airlines may now carry out international flights;

(b) whether the policy also proposes to allow foreign investment upto 40 per cent in domestic carriers; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the new policy and the impact it would have on the public sector airlines?

#### **Airlink between historical places in Tamil Nadu**

619. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of historical importance of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tiruchirapalli and Thanjavur districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government will come forward to provide Airlink in between these historical places; and

(c) if so, by when?

#### **Regular flight between Srinagar, Leh and Kargil**

620. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an airport has been constructed at Kargil which lies out of use for months together every year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce regular flights between Srinagar, Leh and Kargil, if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there are no arrangements for supply of provisions and consumer goods for employees maintaining the Kargil airport and the infrastructure thereof and if so, the steps being taken to make regular supplies of consumer goods available to them?

#### **Purchase of long range aircrafts by IA**

621. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to purchase 17 long range aircrafts;

(b) if so, the routes on which the same are proposed to be introduced as replacement or fresh induction; and

(c) the estimated cost of the aircraft and the steps taken for procurement thereof, indicating the supply proposals under consideration?

#### **Upgradation of Gaya Airport**

622. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to upgrade Gaya Airport to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide foolproof security arrangements at the airport in view of the growing threats from terrorism?

**Appointment of Traffic Assistants on compassionate grounds**

623. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Indian Airlines for appointment of Traffic Assistants on compassionate ground;

(b) whether persons having weak financial position of ex-employee of Indian Airlines are also considered for such appointments;

(c) if so, the details of persons so appointed since 1999 together with the reasons; and

(d) whether he had received any complaint against persons so appointed and if so; the action taken thereon?

**Air link between India and Canada**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to start direct air link between India and Canada;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion in this regard has taken place with Air Canada;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is on the basis of bulk-seat arrangement or some other arrangement; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Closure of Jayprakash Narayan Airport, Patna**

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

(a) whether the proposal to close down Jayprakash Narayan Airport of Patna is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to provide adequate facilities at the above airport; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Construction of hangars at Hyderabad Airport**

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

(a) whether Government have approved the construction of hangars at Hyderabad Airport on Built, Own and Transfer (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what benefits Airports Authority of India (AAI) is likely to derive from this?

**Deployment of CISF at airports**

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

(a) the names of airports in the country where Central Industrial Security Force has been deployed;

(b) the names of airports in the country, where CISF has not been deployed and what are the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to strengthen the security system at airports and maintaining strict security standards?

**Old and unfit aircrafts in IA and Alliance Airlines**

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Alliance Airlines have been using aircraft which are very old and unfit for safe journey;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their age and flying hours; and

(c) the amount spent on their maintenance during the last three years and on the purchase of new aircraft?

**Appointment of IAS officers in I.A.**

629. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present CMD of Indian Airlines was also associated with the Airlines performance during the last five years in his capacity as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for appointing IAS officer in Indian Airlines instead of the technocrat?

**Carrying of passengers by IA and Jet airways**

630. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jet Airways had carried more number of passengers with less number of aircrafts as compared to

Indian Airlines which has a large number of aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of number of fleets of Indian Airlines and Jet Airways;

(c) whether Indian Airlines propose to purchase more aircrafts during the next two years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor when traffic on Indian Airlines is declining as compared to Jet Airways?

**Reduction of fares by IA under Apex**

631. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has reduced its fares on some specific routes under the Apex (Advanced purchase excursion fare scheme) to make the scheme more passenger friendly;

(b) if so, the norms prescribed therefor; and

(c) what are the route-wise details thereof?

**Unlawful treatment with passengers**

†632. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two passengers comprising a married couple, with their six month old baby were off-loaded from IC-810 flight on 3rd November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the persons responsible for this in human and illegal act;

(c) what action has been taken by Government after publication of newsitem of this incident in the newspapers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what are the reasons for not sending these passengers to Ranchi by Flight CD-7411 despite an assurance in this regard; and

(e) what action Government would take to check such unlawful treatment of passengers?

#### **Excess 'OK' seats in flight CD-7411**

†633. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the passenger listed in 'OK' and 'waiting list' of flight No. CD-7411 on 3rd November, 2002 separately;

(b) the number of 'OK' and wait-listed passengers who got the seats out of them in the said flight;

(c) whether some of the passengers from 'OK' category did not get the seats in the flight; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor and the reasons for issuing 'OK' tickets in excess of the availability of seats in the flight?

#### **Airport charges**

634. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted to go into landing and navigation charges at International Airports in the country *vis-a-vis* other countries has revealed Indian Airports as the costliest; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact of these charges on domestic airlines?

#### **Regulatory authority for airports**

635. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the absence of regulatory authority is delaying the setting up of greenfield projects as well as upgradation of existing airports thus keeping investors away;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to set up regulatory authority at the earliest?

#### **Financial assistance to Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have funded the opening deficit of certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to the State of Orissa;

(c) what is the additional Central assistance rendered to Orissa; and

(d) whether any kind of conditions were attached to this additional financial assistance?

#### **Loan to unemployed graduates**

637. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by the unemployed graduates in getting loans from nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether Government would come forward to relax such rules for those

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

unemployed from backward regions of our country as a special case;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **FICCI's recommendation on service tax**

638. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FICCI has recommended empowerment of States to levy the service tax or sharing a service tax revenue between the Centre and States;

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

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

#### **Brokers in insurance sector**

639. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the moves to induct brokers in the insurance industry; and

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

#### **New schemes of LIC**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC proposes to bring back some of their LIC schemes which were phased out, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether some new provisions are

proposed to be added for the benefits of the customers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new schemes which have been launched recently indicating the added benefits to the customers over the earlier schemes?

#### **Withdrawal of policies by LIC**

641. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC is going to withdraw its seven products including its term insurance endowment policy/without profit policy that offers high returns among the products in its portfolio from November, 2002;

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

(c) what would be its impact on policy holders as well as on its credibility; and

(d) the corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Cases pending in Debt Recovery Tribunals**

642. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1,53,000 crores are locked up in litigation in various courts including Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) handling non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, what efforts have so far been made by the Ministry of Finance to retrieve the public money so locked up; and

(c) whether Ministry of Finance propose to make any innovative steps to retrieve the public money?

### **Cancellation of licences of Co-operative Banks**

643. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether RBI has cancelled licences of some Co-operative Banks this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the grounds for their cancellation;
- (c) whether any such licences were cancelled during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the guidelines for opening and functioning of such Banks?

### **Supervisory board for UCBs**

644. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up a separate supervisory board for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) in Banking Sector;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the increasing NPAs of UCBs and also to instil confidence in the Cooperative Banking Sector?

### **Urban Co-operative Banks**

645. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 78 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 2002 and state:

- (a) the number of urban Co-operative Banks which have been listed as weak by the RBI so far;

(b) in how many cases licences have been withdrawn by RBI; and

(c) the steps taken to make the co-operative credit system sustainable?

### **Model accounting standards**

646. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any need to improve corporate governance codes and model accounting standards in order to insulate itself from accounting scandals;
- (b) if so, whether Government have formulated any plan in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government are aware that C&AG of India has already set up a Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board to review and finalise the first set of Government Accounting Standards to be followed by the Government run companies both at the Centre and State levels; and
- (e) if so, by when this plan is likely to be implemented?

### **Survey on black money**

647. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the survey conducted by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy there is large scale circulation of undisclosed/black money in the country;
- (b) if so, what is the outcome of the survey;
- (c) what is Government's response in this regard;



(d) whether the schemes launched by Government to unearth black money have achieved the desired results;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to formulate new schemes to unearth black money in the country; and

(f) the extent to which the circulation of black money in the country can be controlled?

#### **RBI's concern over growth rate**

†648. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:  
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will not be able to achieve 6 per cent growth rate even this year also as per the estimate of Reserve Bank of India and I.M.F.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the annual target fixed for GDP and the decline expected in its achievements; and

(d) the details of steps Government are taking to streamline the economy?

#### **Waiver of dues of Orissa**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa has requested the Central Government for waiver of Rs. 68 crores towards charges for air-dropping of food material for the marooned people during the last super cyclone and floods, as the State is not in a position to pay this amount;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested the Central Government for bearing their share of matching grant under the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(c) if so, what is the status of these proposals?

#### **Foreign investment in State projects**

650. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have been allowed to seek foreign investments for their development projects;

(b) if so, the details of the projects being implemented with foreign investment;

(c) whether the terms and conditions of foreign investment were approved by the Central Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the State Governments could not finance these projects from their internal resources, the reasons therefor?

#### **Funds crunch in UTI**

651. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UTI is facing a shortfall of 12,203 crore on account of negative reserves of several assured return schemes;

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

(c) the provisions made by Government to bail out UTI in respect of these schemes so that their investors can get full assured returns on redemption as on demand?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Relief measures for tea cultivation in Kerala**

652. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a working group of the Reserve Bank of India had recommended some relief measures for tea cultivation in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for its implementation?

**Recommendations of Joshi Committee on working of companies**

653. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has last month ordered prosecution against 13 companies for non-compoundable offences in the stock market scam;

(b) if so, the details of the offences committed by them;

(c) the details of the names of the companies and the amount involved against such companies;

(d) what are the major recommendations of the Joshi Committee in this regard; and

(e) the details of the recommendations implemented so far/proposed to be implemented by Government?

**Increase in inflation rate**

654. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:  
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflation rate is increasing day-by-day and has touched more than 4 per cent in September, 2002;

(b) if so, what are the reasons attributed for the increase of inflation in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restrict it in future?

**Prosecution against companies**

655. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched prosecution against several companies under the companies Act;

(b) if so, the names of the companies against whom prosecution proceedings have been launched or are likely to be maintained; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that DCA have referred the cases of several companies for further investigation in the manipulation of their scripts and if so; the names of such companies?

**Dividends of public sector undertakings**

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of rupees 18,805 crore is likely to be deposited with Government exchequer by public sector undertakings as dividend during 2002-2003;

(b) if not, what is the estimate about this amount; and

(c) the comparative figures of the same to that of 1998-99 and the number of public sector undertakings from which the dividend is likely to be received?

**Recovery of direct taxes**

†657. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are yet to recover Rs. 1.5 lakh crores involved in the disputes relating to the direct and indirect taxes;

(b) if not, the quantum of this amount at the end of September, 2002; and

(c) the average amount recovered by Government through settling these disputes during the last three years, year-wise?

**Absence of guidelines in Corporate Audit Committees**

658. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

Corporate Audit Committees have to face a number of problems with the Brand of Companies in the absence of clear cut guidelines defining the role of Audit Committees;

(b) if so, the main reasons for conflict between the Corporate Audit Committees and company brand;

(c) whether Government have framed any rules and guidelines for the CACs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

**Tax relief package**

659. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a bid to address the middle class criticism of the 2002 Budget, the Finance Minister has asked senior officials of the Department of revenue to work out a package of tax breaks; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this case?

**Performance of NABARD**

†660. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in various States, especially in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the shortcomings if any, detected in the implementation of the States/ Projects; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of the projects sanctioned during the last three years alongwith their locations and the State-wise number of such projects especially the ones in Himachal Pradesh which are yet to be sanctioned/ approved by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development?

**Accounting of Panchayats  
and Municipal Committees  
under CAG**

†661. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to bring uniformity, Government propose to bring the accounting and audit in Panchayats and Municipal Committees under CAG which would have authority to fix standards for accounting and audit and have general superintendence over such audits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Acceptance of Public deposits by non-  
banking companies**

662. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted various non-Banking Companies (including Plantation Companies) to accept public deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the nodal agencies set up to exercise regulatory control on such companies;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the depositors during the last two years regarding the non-payment of the investors' money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

**Negative reserves of children Gift  
Growth Fund, 86**

663. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Children Gift Growth Fund, 86 started by the Unit Trust of India in 1986 has registered negative reserves to the tune of rupees 5000 crores as in June, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the duration of the scheme;

(d) whether premature withdrawal facility is being given to the investors and if so; the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**World Bank loans**

664. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and the State Governments have obtained loan from the World Bank and IMF;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purposes for which these loans were taken;

(c) whether the projects/schemes are being implemented as per schedule;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to adhere to the schedule; and

(e) what is the quantum of outstanding loan as on 30th September, 2002?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Fiscal deficit of States**

665. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of burgeoning fiscal deficits, State Governments have urged upon Central Government to take a lead in pruning the salary outgo of its employees so as to balance their budgets;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to address the problem of unsustainable level of fiscal deficits?

### **Liberalisation of exchange control regulations**

666. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has further liberalised exchange control regulations allowing NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) to repatriate funds abroad towards education, medical expenses and earnings from property sale; and

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

### **District Co-operative Banks in Madhya Pradesh**

667. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of District Co-operative Banks in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) the amount of losses suffered/profits made by these banks during the last three years; and

(c) whether any irregularities in the working of these banks have come to the notice of Government and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, bank-wise?

### **Economic growth**

668. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average economic growth in the past three years has been only 4 per cent as compared to 7.5 per cent in the years 1994-97;

(b) whether Government have identified the causes for this poor performance; and

(c) if so, the strategies drawn up to improve performance?

### **Restoration of LTC**

†669. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore LTC for Central Government employees as per the news-item which appeared in "Rashtriya Sahara", dated 18th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Advance tax collection**

670. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM:  
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a surge in advance tax collection in all major sectors except power and telecommunications and the same have registered significant upward trend;

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

(c) what is the target fixed and the collection expected to be made by the end of the year;

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance proposed to study the trend in power and telecommunications sectors which have not registered an upward trend; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Bail out package for UTI and IFCI**

671. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred by Government to finance the bailout package for UTI and IFCI;

(b) what are the details thereof;

(c) the proposed package of support by the State Government collectively and other details thereon including financial involvement of the Central Government;

(d) the issues on which Government agreed to exceed and the financial involvement thereon; and

(e) the comparative priority accorded by Government to these two proposals?

**Economic growth projections**

672. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has lowered economic growth projection to 4.8 per cent for the current fiscal from the earlier estimated 5.5 per cent and that Centre's gross fiscal deficit would be significantly more than the budget target of 4.5 per cent; and

(b) if so, whether Government agree to the assessment of NCAER and what steps are being contemplated so that estimated growth of 5.5 per cent is attained and fiscal deficit also does not cross the budget target?

**Rolling budget system**

673. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt a three year rolling budget system instead of current system of the regimented Union budgets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the usefulness and success of the new budget system have been thoroughly checked?

**Outstanding dues against industrial groups**

†674. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Government dues outstanding against industrial groups in the country, name-wise;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what is the name of the industrial groups against which the largest amount is outstanding and whether Government would like to investigate the functioning of all such industries; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government are likely to recover their dues from these industrial groups?

#### **Internal debt of States**

675. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the internal debt of the various State Governments as on 30th October, 2002; State-wise; separately;

(b) whether the Central Government received any suggestion from the States for reducing the interest rate from 12 to 8 per cent on the Central Loan to the States;

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan to consider this suggestion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Evasion of Customs Duty by trading houses**

676. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of recognised trading houses are involved in evasion of Customs Duty; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that investigation has been ordered in to imports by ADANI Exports?

#### **CIIs report on taxes**

677. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of Confederation of Indian Industry stating that lower taxes is the key to China's success;

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

(c) whether Government propose to replicate similar steps to give boost to the economy?

#### **World Bank assistance**

678. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he requested at the recent joint annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF in Washington on 29th September, 2002 for increasing the development assistance to realise the millennium goal of health for all and poverty reduction programmes, as reported in The Economic Times, New Delhi, dated 30th September, 2002;

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

(c) the total assistance received from the World Bank, IMF and other international lending agencies for various development activities, including health, education, rural development and poverty alleviation, and spent during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

### Investments made by LIC

†679. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in capital market and the justification for the same;

(b) the income made from the same by LIC during the last financial year;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of income LIC has closed its many higher bonus policies;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the investors' money; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### Review of accounts of Tata Finance

†680. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have got the accounts of Tata Finance checked;

(b) if so, the basis of the checking; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

### Central Economic Reforms Commission

681. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to create Central Economic Reforms Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission is planning to set up bodies to monitor the implementation of reforms in each sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Amount collected by Mohan Nagar Awas Samiti

682. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 689 given in Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 2002 and state:

(a) the amount collected prior to 1989-90 from the date of its inception in 1982 by Mohan Nagar Karamchari Sehkari Awas Samiti on account of Admission fee, Sharemoney, Cost of land, etc. term-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether such amounts have been reflected in Income-tax returns every year;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

### SBI's Kurebhar branch, Sultanpur, U.P.

683. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that customers have to wait for hours even for minor transaction due to heavy work load in the only Nationalised bank *i.e.*, State Bank of India at Kurebhar in Sultanpur (U.P.);

(b) whether Government propose to open a branch of another Nationalised bank to reduce the work load from the above said bank and to provide better facilities to customers;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) if so, the details thereof and by when new branch would be functional; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Unrecovered taxes**

684. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of unrecovered taxes pertaining to Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Custom Duty and Central Excise Duty as on 31st March, 2000, 2001 and 2002; and

(b) the time bound year-wise target of liquidating the same?

#### **Manipulation of shares by HFCL**

685. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited (HFCL) have applied for permission for private placement-cum-preferential issue valued at more than rupees 500 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that various agencies like SEBI, RBI, Department of Company Affairs and BSE/NSE are inquiring into manipulation of shares by HFCL; and

(d) if so, whether Government would withhold permission to HFCL before all these inquiries are over and if not; the reasons therefor?

#### **Vacant Board level posts in Banks/FI**

686. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer

to the answer to the Starred Question No. 128 given on 23rd July, 2002 and state:

(a) the number of Board level posts in Banks/FI out of 8 mentioned therein filled up till now with name and terms of appointees;

(b) the present status of the recruitment process for filling up the remaining vacant posts;

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up these vacant posts in each case;

(d) whether any other board level post has fallen vacant since July, 2002; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and efforts being made for expeditious recruitment?

#### **Measures for money lending by SEBI**

687. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SBI has made any alternative measures for money lending after banning badla system in the stock market;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether SEBI has received any request from the various stock exchange and BSE Broker's forum for how a formalised lending system can be put in place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

#### **Differential rate of interest for Home loans**

688. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that there exists different rate of interest for Home loans among the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of rate of interest fixed by nationalised banks in the country

alongwith the details of the Home loan schemes and rate of interest Bank-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that interest on Home loans is very high for the past three years; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the rate of interest on Home loan?

#### **VRS for insurance sector**

689. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to offer Voluntary Retirement Schemes for the employees of the Public Sector insurance companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme will be available to all categories of staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Cut in import duty for pulses**

690. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Food has demanded a cut in import duty for pulses to boost imports to meet drought induced shortage; and

(b) if so, the action taken to bring down consumer prices for "dal" the common man's food?

#### **Reduction of retirement age**

691. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are seriously considering reducing the retirement age of the Central Government employees from 60 years to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been discussed at the recently held Chief Minister's conference; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the meeting?

#### **Early alert system for sub-standard accounts**

692. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the RBI to prevent slippages of substandard accounts into default category proposed "Early Alert System" and "Special Mention Account";

(b) if so, the details of the proposed system; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to reduce NPAs which now stands to the tune of Rs. one lakh crores?

#### **Payment of Non-practising allowance to veterinary graduates by banks**

693. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the nationalised banks throughout the country recruit veterinary graduates in their establishments as a regular measure;

(b) if so, the details thereof including their qualifications and work assigned to them;

(c) whether the non-practising allowance in term of the Government of India, Ministry

of Finance, Department of Expenditure order dated 29th September, 1988 is granted to the veterinary graduates employed by the banks; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Bifurcation of UTI**

†694. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to bifurcate UTI and handover one part to professional management;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that UTI will become weaker by such bifurcation; and

(d) if so, the reasons for taking this step?

#### **Deterioration in fiscal situation**

695. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently communicated its serious concern on the state of fiscal deficit in the country and urged upon Government to take urgent steps in this regard to improve the investment climate;

(b) if so, whether Government have undertaken any serious study of the problem including the reasons for fiscal deficit of the various State Governments and their unsustainable debt burden; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this direction to take the country out of the deep financial morass?

#### **Mopping up of funds by ICICI Bank**

696. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have allowed ICICI Bank to mop up Rs. 5000 crore from public through the bond route;

(b) whether it is the first Bank to get permission of the kind without infrastructure bond;

(c) if so, the reasons and circumstances for the policy shift; and

(d) whether other banks will also be allowed to follow suit?

#### **Increase in foreign exchange reserves**

697. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in India's foreign exchange reserves during 2001-02 and 2002-03, thus far;

(b) the factors contributing to the increase in reserves; and

(c) the average interest rate earned on foreign exchange reserves?

#### **Revival of sick industries in Gujarat**

698. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for revival of sick industries referred to BIFR from Gujarat since its inception;

(b) the number of cases belonging to the PSU, joint venture enterprise and private sector out of them; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of cases approved for revival and the number of cases rejected?

#### **Foreign Banks**

699. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of foreign banks operating at present in the country alongwith their capital, bank-wise;

(b) whether any other country has proposed to open the bank in India;

(c) if so, the number of proposals pending in this regard; and

(d) the decision of Government taken thereon?

#### **Preferential allotment on private placement basis**

700. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for SEBI allowing preferential allotment by the companies to their promoters on private placement basis without going first to their shareholders for a right issue; and

(b) what checks and balances were made to prevent misuse of the preferential allotment route by the promoters and why the same has failed to protect the interest of shareholders of such companies?

#### **Irregularities in procurement of printing paper by Directorate of Printing**

701. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question 2456 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 2000 and state:

(a) whether an M.P. *vide* his letter dated 6th May, 2002 had apprised the CAG about the large-scale irregularities said to have been committed by the Directorate of Printing in the procurement and consumption of 90121.244 Mt. printing paper worth Rs. 210.46 crores;

(b) whether the CAG had made any assessment about the quantity of printing paper that could have been consumed keeping in view of utilisation capacities of each printing press; and

(c) if so, what are the comments of CAG?

#### **Shortfall in resource mobilization**

702. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by Government to meet the shortfall in resource mobilization resulting from Government's stated inability to achieve the disinvestment target?

#### **Permission to Peerless General Finance Limited in insurance sector**

703. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Peerless General Finance and Investment Limited has been permitted to enter into the insurance sector and launch insurance linked savings scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing a Residuary Non-Banking Financial Company (RNBFC) to undertake insurance-based business; and

(c) whether Government have received similar requests from any other RNBFC and if so, the details thereof?

**Revision of prices of LPG and Kerosene**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that oil companies have asked Government to raise the prices of LPG and kerosene;

(b) if so, what was the justification given by them; and

(c) what was the response of Government?

**Allotment of dealerships for petrol pumps**

705. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Petroleum proposes to change the existing guidelines for the allotment of dealership of petroleum products in the wake of the large scale cancellation of allotment;

(b) whether the fresh guidelines have since been framed and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the revised guidelines are likely to be put in place?

**Mangalore-Bangalore-Coimbatore LPG pipeline project**

706. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the proposed Mangalore-Bangalore-Coimbatore LPG pipeline project;

(b) the estimated volume of LPG to be transported through the pipeline;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has evinced keen interest in the project; and

(d) what is the present status of the above project?

**Exploration of oil reserves in Krishna-Godavari Basin**

707. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Reliance has made a stunning discovery of the largest natural gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated to explore the gas;

(d) the amount required to extract gas from the above Basin; and

(e) to what extent it would help address the country's energy security concerns?

**Losses suffered by ONGC**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has lost 15,000 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas during the first six months of the current fiscal year due to non-lifting by marketing companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial losses; and

(c) the details of measures proposed to be taken to stop recurrence of such losses?

**Review of joint ventures in oil sector**

709. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether privatization of oilfields has not yielded any desired results so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to review all joint ventures in oilfield sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Purchase of gas from Turkmenistan**

710. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA  
RAO:  
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA  
SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether India propose to purchase gas through pipeline from Turkmenistan; if so, the quantity of gas likely to be imported;

(b) what are the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has agreed to Turkmenistan gas pipeline passing through Afghanistan and Pakistan for supply of gas to India; and

(d) by when the supply would start and at what cost?

**Establishment of oil stockpile**

†711. SHRIMATI SAVITA  
SHARDA:  
SHRI R. P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a proposal has been formulated for establishing an oil stockpile as a means to guard against price fluctuations and also to cope with emergency situation arising out of war or tensions;

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

(c) the details of known oil stockpiles of some other countries, especially in our neighbourhood?

**Crude oil import**

712. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) the quantity of crude oil imported during the last three years, year-wise to meet domestic requirements;

(b) the details of the surveys conducted for exploring the possibility of availability of oil in various parts of the country during the above period; and

(c) what is the outcome of each survey?

**Exploration of new sources for oil export**

713. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

formulated a contingent plan to tap the new sources of gas and oil export in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said plan contains any provision for augmenting the domestic production in this sector; and

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

#### **Assessment of gas in Tripura**

714. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which are rich in petroleum and natural gas;

(b) the quantity of gas assessed by ONGC in Tripura;

(c) the projects in which the huge amount of gas in Tripura will be utilised; and

(d) whether there is any forecasting about the presence of oil in Tripura?

#### **Agreement with Iraq in oil exploration**

715. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has asked India for assistance and know-how for setting up a major oil refinery and also for oil exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of its consideration?

#### **Investment in oil sector in Kazakhstan**

716. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to make major investments in the oil and gas sector in Kazakhstan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether major investments are to be made in four identified Caspian Sea oilfields in Kazakhstan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **LNG terminal at Kochi**

717. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up LNG terminal project in Kochi, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above proposal is approved by the competent authority; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Exploration of CBM in West Bengal**

718. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas exploration in West Bengal in both public and private sector; and

(b) the expected time by which CBM would be available for commercial utilisation from the above on-going explorations?

#### **Octane Testing Centres in Gujarat**

719. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested financial assistance for establishment of stationery as well as mobile Octane Testing Centres in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by Government?

#### **Mandatory sale of ethanol-doped petrol**

720. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the sale of 5 per cent ethanol-doped petrol i.e. Gasohol would be mandatory in certain States and Union Territories from 1st January, 2003;

(b) if so, the names of such States and UTs;

(c) the estimated reduction in oil import dependency of the country as a result of above decision; and

(d) the details of the incentives proposed to be given to the sugarcane growing farmers who provide necessary ingredient for Gasohol?

#### **Petrol pumps in Gujarat**

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

(a) the names of companies running their own petrol pumps in Gujarat, location-wise; and

(b) the names of persons to whom these coco pumps and jubilee pumps have been rented out during the last three years?

#### **Off-loading of equity from ONGC by GAIL**

722. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has decided to seek its equity of 4.8 per cent in ONGC; and

(b) if so, what would be the new equity structure of ONGC and what impact it would have on its management structure?

#### **Tourist Centres in U.P.**

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

(a) the details of tourism projects formulated for Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of those which have been completed, project-wise/district-wise; and

(c) the details of future plan for opening different tourist centres in Uttar Pradesh?

#### **Inclusion of tourism in priority sector**

724. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the definition of priority sector lending to include tourism in the priority sector;

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

(c) by when the proposal to accord priority to tourism sector would be finalized?



**Construction of 'Mahadwara'  
to "Mangladevi Temple" in  
Karnataka**

725. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND  
CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Shri Mangaladevi, an ancient temple in Mangalore, District Dakshin Kannada, Karnataka, attracting a large number of devotees from far and near have applied to the Archeological Survey of India seeking permission to construct the 'Mahadwara' to the temple;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the management of the temple has assured that the proposed Mahadwara would not alter the basic and existing structure of the temple; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when the required permission would be granted?

**Promotion of adventure tourism in  
H.P.**

726. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for providing wayside amenities cafeteria and toilets in the Institute Complex of Manali in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for promotion of Adventure Tourism and Training in Mountain Rescue to Tribal people of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details of (a) and (b) above separately; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

**Cultural/folklore festivals in foreign  
countries**

727. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal to organize cultural/folklore festivals in various foreign countries to tap new markets for Inbound tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are looking forward to implement such proposals to promote India to new countries as a tourist destination; and

(d) if so, the details of the groundwork prepared therefor?

**Recovery in tourism activities**

728. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

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

(a) whether there has been some recovery in tourism activities;

(b) if so, whether leading hotels, airports and tourist spots have shown in the month of June, 2002 onwards that foreign tourists feel safe in India;

(c) if so, to what extent tourist arrivals from June, 2002 onwards have picked up; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists?

**Renovation of tourist spots in NE Region**

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

(a) the names of the tourist spots now existing in different States of the North-Eastern region;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether there are new projects on tourism under consideration with the State wise list of projects;

(d) the decision of Government regarding new projects and the sanction of funds, if any; and

(e) the sanction of funds in details for renovation and development of the existing tourist spots?

**Basic amenities at temples in Tamil Nadu**

730. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thanjavur, Madurai and Trichirappalli in Tamil Nadu are famous for ancient Temples;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to financially assist the State Government to provide better basic amenities in order to attract foreign tourists visiting our country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Tourist places in Orissa and H.P.**

731. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a drive to sell India as a tourist centre, if so, the details thereof and also the details of tourist places of Orissa and Himachal Pradesh proposed to be included in the project;

(b) the countries where this campaign would be kicked off, country-wise;

(c) whether it is also proposed to bring this subject in the concurrent list; and

(d) the measures devised by Government to help private tourist industry to lure or attract foreign tourists?

**Financial assistance for development of Sivaganga District in Tamil Nadu**

732. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the historical importance of Sivaganga District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Government will come forward to allot financial assistance to develop this historical place and include it in the all India Tourist map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Cultural festival in Kurukshetra**

733. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cultural festival is likely to be organised in Kurukshetra in the month of December, 2002;

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

(c) what other steps are being taken by Government to develop Kurukshetra as an international pilgrimage and tourist destination?

#### **Setting up of Tourism Advisory Council**

734. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Hotel and Restaurant Association of Eastern India has made a proposal to the Central Government to set up a Tourism Advisory Council to boost tourism; and

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

#### **Allocation of funds for the birth place of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

735. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:  
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the birthplace of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Cuttack is proposed to be converted into a national museum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds made for the purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the amount already released so far?

#### **Losses suffered by tourist offices abroad**

†736. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3774 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have suffered huge losses due to tourist offices abroad during the last three years, if so, the year-wise details thereof;

(b) the persons responsible for these huge losses and the action Government would like to initiate against them; and

(c) the steps Government would like to take to activate the tourism and make effective the same in foreign countries?

#### **New areas for development and promotion of tourism**

737. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings through tourism in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to identify new areas for development and promotion of tourism to attract foreign tourists?

#### **Maintenance of enlisted monuments**

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

(a) whether Government's attention has

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu, Delhi dated the 8th October, 2002 captioned "under ASI regime monuments go missing";

(b) if so, the number of monuments which are enlisted in ASI records but missing across the country at present; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for tracing out the enlisted monuments and for their proper maintenance?

#### **Development of tourism sector in U.P.**

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

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal to Government for promotion and development of tourism sector in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision/action taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Tourist package for Andhra Pradesh**

740. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the action proposed to assist Andhra Pradesh Government for developing new tour packages from Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam and Araku Valley to attract more tourists?

#### **Funds allocated for promotion of tourism**

741. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of funds granted to various States and Union

Territories for the promotion of tourism in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the States have utilized these funds allocated for them properly; if not, the names of the States and the amount unutilized during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it helped to attract more tourists to the country in those States?

#### **Target for development of tourism**

†742. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for the development of tourism in the country during the last three years;

(b) the progress made till March, 2002 to achieve the said targets; and

(c) the targets fixed for the coming year?

#### **Package tour programme for NE Region**

743. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any package tour programme for tourists visiting NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Foreign assistance for development of tourism in NE Region**

744. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

develop tourism sector in Assam and other parts of North-Eastern Region with foreign assistance;

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

#### **Tourism promotion in NE Region and J&K**

745. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the importance attached to tourism promotion in the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir in the national tourism policy; and
- (b) the details of promotional measures and financial allocation thereof during the current fiscal year?

#### **Development of Baleshwar city**

†746. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are places in the country which although of mythological, religious and historical importance have yet not been developed as tourist spots;
- (b) if so, whether Government are aware that Baleshwar city in Beh Tehsil in District Agra is one such place of mythological, historical and religious importance, but it has not been developed from tourism point of view so far; and
- (c) if so, whether Government are taking steps with the help of State Government for its development as a tourist spot?

#### **Shilpgram Project**

747. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the list of organizations being funded by Government in Assam under various schemes indicating total sanction, purpose, instalment-wise sanction and utilization status;
- (b) whether any time limit is fixed to release subsequent installments from the day of receiving utilization certificate of the earlier;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the steps taken to prevent inordinate delay;
- (e) the details of pending applications with stage of sanction; and
- (f) the implementation status of the Shilpgram project under NEZCC at Guwahati and the likely time of resuming construction work?

#### **New Irrigation Projects in U.P.**

748. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any new irrigation projects for Uttar Pradesh has been formulated by Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned for the same; and
- (c) by when these projects are likely to be started?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### Inter-State Water Crisis

749. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that India has  
enough water to take care of every States' need;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that inter-State crisis over the use of this water resource is increasing every year; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps, Government propose to take to solve the inter-State river water disputes?

### Sustainable water security system

750. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES  
be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps Government propose to take for developing a sustainable water security system for the country; and

(b) what would be the cost for conservation of water and its sustainable and equitable use for domestic agricultural and industrial purposes?

### Outcome of the Cauvery water meeting

751. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held in Delhi on Cauvery water issue on 27th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the

longstanding issue of Cauvery water sharing dispute?

### Irrigation facilities

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have achieved the target of increasing the additional irrigation capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the target fixed primarily at the time of finalising the Ninth Five Year Plan and the amount earmarked for achieving the said target; and

(c) the total additional irrigation facility created at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan also the total amount spent thereon?

### States' share on water Management

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

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether share of States spending on water management is declining sharply, as reported in the Economic Times dated the 5th August, 2002;

(b) if so, whether there has been considerable less rainfall during the current year;

(c) if so, whether this has further aggravated the shortage of water in many States;

(d) whether the National Water Policy adopted by Government has failed to provide right climate for private sector participation in this sector; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement the other recommendations of the National Water Policy to meet the water shortage?

#### **Nationalisation of Indian rivers**

754. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalise our country's rivers; and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to take to solve the water-based conflicts?

#### **Management of water resources**

755. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the availability of utilisable water and its demand in the country in the wake of recent drought in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with the present rate of growth in population the demand for utilisable water for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes would out-strip its supply, reaching critical famine conditions by 2025 A.D.; and

(d) if so, the details of the long term plans drawn up to ensure better management of water resources and other research based practical and affordable solutions?

#### **Clearance to Mahadayi Diversion Project**

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

(a) whether Government have given

clearance for the Mahadayi Diversion Project proposed by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, when the clearance was granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Goa Government has filed an appeal raising objections; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken steps to resolve the matter by mutual discussions between the two States?

#### **Constitution of Tribunal for sharing of Krishna water**

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

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to constitute a Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to adjudicate on the sharing of surplus waters of the Krishna river; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take steps to constitute a Tribunal as the Bachawat Tribunal award on sharing of Krishna waters expired in 2000?

#### **Suggestions for Nationalisation of rivers**

758. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals/suggestions from various quarters that all rivers water should be Nationalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Release of water to Tamil Nadu**

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

(a) whether there was any request from the Government of Karnataka for convening a meeting of the Cauvery River Authority to review its earlier order for releasing water to Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

**Privatisation of river water**

760. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river water in some parts of the country have been privatised;

(b) if so, since when and on what conditions; and

(c) what has been the fate of poor farmers living on the banks of these rivers who have been drawing their sustenance from them?

**Funds allocated for rain water harvesting to Kerala**

761. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority are aware of the attempt of the local bodies in Kerala for the last two years to harvest rain water;

(b) whether any assistance will be provided to these local bodies for the above purpose;

(c) whether there is any project to harvest rain water in the various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the grant spent and sanctioned for the last two years State-wise and year-wise?

**Funds allocated for rain water harvesting in Karnataka**

762. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details about popularisation of rain water harvesting schemes in the country;

(b) the amount so far spent during the last two years on rain water harvesting; and

(c) the details of amount, if any, allotted to the State of Karnataka for popularisation of rain water harvesting for during the last two years?

**MNC's right over water**

†763. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multi National Companies are acquiring the rights over water instead of that of the community;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government and other State Governments are also contemplating to privatise this sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Creation of grid system**

764. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES  
be pleased to state:

comprehensive New National Water policy  
proposed for creation of a grid system for  
major rivers to tackle frequent drought and  
floods in the country; and

(a) whether it is a fact that the

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 20th November, 2002*  
*Kartika 29, 1924 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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

<b>Civil Aviation</b>	:	610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635,
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<b>Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>	:	704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722,
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<b>Water Resources</b>	:	748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764.