

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 29, 2003/Sravana 7, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Air services among the capitals of NE States

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to introduce air services among the capitals of the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have been thinking of increasing the airbus and boeing services between Agartala and Kolkata and of decreasing Air services, considering the geographically isolated location of Tripura; and

(c) the details of the network programme of the Indian Airlines for the N.E. region?

(b) whether these machines are out of order at many airports;

(c) if so, since when; and

(d) what steps Government are taking for ensuring the safety aspect?

Operation of new aircrafts

874. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the details to acquire new Aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when they will be ready for operational purposes?

X-ray machines at airports in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) whether X-ray machines for checking of luggage from security point of view are available at all the airports of Madhya Pradesh;

Study on traffic growth

875. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of aircrafts owned and operated by Indian Airlines at present;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the number of aircrafts which have outlived their normal lives and require replacement;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for purchase of 43 aircrafts at a cost of Rs. 10,000 crores instead of obtaining them on wet/dry lease;

(d) whether any study on traffic growth has been undertaken which would justify purchase of these aircrafts instead of taking them on wet/dry lease; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Commission to sales agents of Air India

†876. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has suffered huge loss due to commission given arbitrarily to its sales agents by three senior officers of its London-based office;

(b) if so, the amount of loss suffered by Air India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a penalty has been imposed on these officers after declaring them guilty by C.B.I.;

(d) if so, the amount of the penalty imposed and by when it will be recovered; and

(e) what are the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee in this regard?

Expansion of Bhubaneswar Airport

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the airport at Bhubaneswar is proposed to be expanded;

(b) if so, whether the central Government would meet its expenses;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up an International Airport in Orissa, keeping in view its heritage character; and

(d) whether any kind of facilities are proposed to be provided at the airports in the State to boost tourism, especially foreign tourists?

Losses to IA on unviable routes

878. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is paying a heavy price for continuing to operate on seemingly unviable routes;

(b) if so, whether a look at the airlines annual report for 2001-2002 shows that as many as 24 of the 70 domestic services operated by the airline during that year did not meet even the direct (cash) cost of operations;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation;

(d) whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Purchase of aircrafts from Airbus Industry

879. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4042 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines's proposal to purchase new aircrafts worth more than Rs. 10,000 crores from Airbus Industry has since been cleared by Public Investment Board (PIB);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for selecting Airbus Industry only for purchase of aircrafts when other companies like Boeing are offering State-of-the-art aircrafts?

Complaints against AI's new purchase deal

880. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airbus Industries has complained of fishy twist to AI deal in its new purchase bids;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received; and

(c) the action taken to ensure impartiality in AI deals?

Evaluation procedure in aircraft purchase

881. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines propose to purchase new passenger aircraft;

(b) if so, which make/model of aircraft is proposed to be purchased;

(c) what has been the evaluation procedure prior to deciding on the make/model of the aircraft proposed to be purchased;

(d) what are the type of engines proposed to be purchased along with such aircraft; and

(e) the evaluation procedure in respect of the selection of the engines?

Safety of Cargo at IGI Airport

882. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven persons including four employees of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) approved Cargo handling agencies were arrested by the Crime Branch for allegedly stealing goods from consignments at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the job of Cargo handling is given to Private agencies and stealing of goods has been done in collusion with the regular staff of AAI; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken to ensure the safety of Cargo at the airport?

Upgradation of Pune Airport

883. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the upgradation of the Airport at Pune;

(b) whether Government have made any provision for this purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Delay in modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports

884. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to develop Delhi and Mumbai airports to meet international standards has made no progress in the past three months after the presentation of budget; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Restructuring of airports

885. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to restructure the airports under the control of Airports Authority of India is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Legislation for airport security

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any draft legislation regarding security at airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding security arrangements at various airports of the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the proposed legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

Financial performance of Air India

887. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 2002-03 Air India had anticipated a profit of Rs. 100 crores, whereas during April-December 2002, its operating income was Rs. 3,612 crores while the operating expenditure was Rs. 3,740 crores, resulting in a loss of Rs. 127 crores; and

(b) if so, what is the actual profit or loss of Air India from 1st April, 2002 to 31st March, 2003, together with the reasons therefor and what is the projection of profit during 2003-04?

Specialized wing for airport security

888. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for tightening the security measures at airports;

(b) whether a dedicated wing of CISF will be given specialized training for the security of airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Study on low cost air services

889. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to carry out a feasibility study of low-cost airline from Cochin to some key

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

destinations in the Gulf viz. Dubai, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi has since given its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) what decisions have been taken thereon?

Additional flights to Jammu and Kashmir

890. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of flights to Jammu and Kashmir due to heavy rush of tourists in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when additional flights are likely to resume?

Compensation for land acquired for airport projects

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

(a) whether private land has been acquired by Government for expansion of airports in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether land of some farmers has been acquired by Government for expansion of airport situated in Dehradun; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of the farmers or organisations who have been provided compensation by Government, so far?

Funds for expansion of Jolly Grant Airport

†892. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds meant for expansion of Jolly Grant Airport (Uttaranchal) have been made available to State Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and by when the said funds would be made available to State Government?

Appointment on humanitarian grounds

893. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2684 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines appoint persons on humanitarian grounds under peculiar conditions;

(b) if so, the grounds identified for such appointments;

(c) the method of inviting applications and mode of selection thereto; and

(d) the names of persons appointed on these grounds since 1999 onwards together with the ground of their appointment?

Rent for using AAI's assets

†894. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy for providing assets of Airports Authority of India (Hangerland etc.) to State Governments for official purposes;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the manner in which Airports Authority of India determines the rental of barracks and hangars and whether there is any difficulty to permit use of these assets free of cost for non-commercial purposes;

(c) whether any proposal for waiving off rent of condemned barracks and hangars of Directorate General of Civil Aviation has been forwarded to the Central Government by Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh Governments; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

Floating of Issues in the market

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

(a) the number of public equity issues, right issues and bond issues floated in the market during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for the constant decline of these issues;

(c) whether general public has lost complete faith in the stock market who has been cheated of their hard-earned money due to collusion of SEBI, Brokers and Department of Company Affairs; and

(d) whether Government propose to have an in-depth study of the matter and find ways and means to get their money back and punish the defaulters?

Financial performance of Indian Airlines

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

(a) whether financial position of Indian Airlines has become weak;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss of the Airlines in the first quarter of 2003-04; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve its finances?

Changes in life insurance laws

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

(a) whether the law Commission has called for sweeping changes in life insurance laws in the country;

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

(c) whether necessary amendments are being brought forward in insurance laws in conformity with these recommendations; if so, by when; and

(d) whether the interest of the policy holders would be adequately protected in the new legislation and if so, the details thereof?

Routing of funds through State Governments

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a recent decision of the Ministry of Finance for routing the funds through the State Governments instead of direct transfer of funds to the implementing agencies, would adversely affect the progress of schemes like 'Sampoorna Gramin Swarozgar Yojana', 'Swajaldhara', 'Hariyali', etc.; and

(b) if so, what advantages are likely to accrue by adopting this scheme and whether views of Ministries like Health, Education and Rural Development were taken into consideration?

Inclusion of Majuli Island in World Heritage Site

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

(a) the details of tentative World Heritage List prepared by ASI;

(b) whether Majuli Island is in the tentative list of ASI for World Heritage site;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the status of Majuli towards nomination as World Heritage site under Cultural landscape category during 2004?

New pension scheme for Central Government employees

900. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to set up new pension fund to operationalise new pension scheme for the Central Government employees;

(b) whether the modalities for pension funds have been finalised by the Interim Pension Regulatory Authority set up by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when Government are going to set up the Interim Pension Regulatory Authority?

Over/under invoicing by drug companies

901. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases

are pending with Government against drug companies for over/under invoicing;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the amount of duty involved in each case;

(c) the reasons for delay in deciding these cases; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government for timely settlement of such cases?

Investments by Indian companies in UK

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

(a) whether a large number of Indian companies are making investments in UK;

(b) if so, the number of such companies as on 31st March, 2003;

(c) whether majority of these companies are in IT sector; and

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

Information on high end insurance policies

903. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: SHRI MURLI DEORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax Department has sought information from insurance companies on high end policies involving a premium in excess of Rs. 50,000/- per year;

(b) if so, whether this move by Income-tax Department has caused resentment among the insurers who have taken up the matter with IRDA;

(c) whether forcing insurers to divulge information as sought by the Income-tax

Department would constitute a breach of confidentiality as per agreement between the policy holders and the insurers; and

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

Fake credit card rackets

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many fake credit card rackets have been busted during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide foolproof system in credit card dealings?

Failure of banks to recover loans

905. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite sweeping powers given by the Securitisation Bill to recover bad debts, banks have failed to recover them;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(c) the efforts Government propose to make to accelerate the process of recovery of loans?

Repurchase cheques for US-64 'A'

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

(a) whether Government are aware that efficiency in the UTI remains tardy so far as issuing of repurchase cheques for US-64 'A' category units is concerned;

(b) whether repurchase was due on 1st

May, 2003 for which applications were received by 10th April, 2003;

(c) if so, the number of applications received under category 'A';

(d) the number of cases where cheques were delayed for one week, two weeks, four weeks and more than four weeks; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against those who caused delay and loss of interest to unit holders?

Financial position of LIC

907. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked for a report from LIC on its financial position;

(b) if so, the need for such a report;

(c) whether the Corporation is falling short of the capital norms and the solvency requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Loan to Jharkhand

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

(a) the schemes for which loan was sought by the Government of Jharkhand during the last two years, togetherwith the amount of loan sought;

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned to the State Government during the said period;

(c) whether the loan sanctioned was insufficient as compared to its demand; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Refund of income-tax

909. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income-tax Department will continue to pay eight per cent interest on refund of income tax during this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Income-tax Department proposes to refund the excess amount within reasonable time and if not, the reasons therefor?

Regulation of foreign companies

910. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact legal framework to regulate foreign-owned entities to keep check on surrogate auditing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ICAI has been approached to suggest appropriate ways to keep check upon them;

(d) if so, the response received from them; and

(e) the action proposed/to be taken by Government thereon?

Failure of banks to meet agricultural loan target

911. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have pulled

up some banks for not meeting agricultural loan targets despite strict instructions to help farm sector on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details of public sector banks which have not achieved the target;

(c) whether the target fixed for issuing of kisan credit cards has also not been achieved; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the target in regard to issuing of kisan credit cards?

Clearance of welfare schemes

912. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a number of welfare schemes worth thousands of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the main schemes that were announced by the Prime Minister on the Independence Day announcement but have not been implemented or considered so far;

(c) whether providing drinking water in rural areas, promoting industry and tourism in North Eastern States and clearing Rs. 175 crore to Indian Airlines' subsidiary, Alliance Air during 2002-07 for running additional flights have been approved; and

(d) if so, to what extent they will be implemented during the current year?

Rate of interest on loans to States

913. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate

of interest on loan extended to States as 70 per cent of plan assistance and other Central loan continues to be 11.5 per cent;

(b) whether it was announced while presenting the 2002-03 Budget that the rate of interest against different loans to States would be reduced which was much appreciated by various States;

(c) if so, the reasons for not reducing the rate of interest on the above said loans; and

(d) by when the same would be reduced and implemented?

Loan repayment liability of States

914. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government realize that loan repayment liability of States is the most significant burden after revised salary bill in revenue expenditure of States;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plans to convert all existing loan into block loan in order to recalculate and reduce the interest on this block loan;

(c) if so, by when the same would be done;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have any plans to fix five years for repayment of this block loan and one year for repayment of the interest?

Conditions for opening of co-operative banks

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the conditions to start an urban co-operative bank;

(b) whether an urban co-operative bank can be started without obtaining any licence from RBI;

(c) the number of urban co-operative banks in the country which are running without obtaining licence from RBI, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount of deposits in the urban co-operative banks in the country, State-wise?

Withdrawal of RBI stake in SBI

916. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to give up 55 per cent of its stake in State Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details of the Reserve Bank's decision, indicating its objective and the circumstances leading to this decision; and

(c) the steps so far taken in pursuance thereof?

Amendment to Companies Act

917. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend Section 252 of the

Companies Act to have minimum number of women as Directors on the Boards of corporate entities;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the class or classes of companies required to follow this statute; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Third Party Administrators for
Mediclaim Policy Holders**

918. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints about the poor customer care by the Third Party Administrators (TPAs) for the Mediclaim Policy Holders have been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to offer better services by TPAs to the policy holders?

**Central fund for unorganised labour
sector**

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

(a) whether Government have decided to provide Rs. 1,000 crore towards the Central Fund for welfare of unorganised labour sector including pensions;

(b) whether State Governments will also be required to contribute towards this fund; and

(c) if so, what would the ratio of the Central and State contribution towards the fund?

Foreign exchange reserve position

†920. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Monetary Fund has praised India for its comfortable foreign exchange reserves;

(b) whether the country is not in need of IMF assistance now; and

(c) whether the country is in a position to meet its import bill on its own?

Revamping of economic panels

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

(a) whether his Ministry is considering to revamp the economic panels in different departments in order to boost the economic sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**Companies involved in Demat share
scam**

922. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 387 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 2002 and state:

(a) the names of the defaulting companies involved in Demat share scam; and

(b) what penal actions are being taken against them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

World Bank aid to Andhra Pradesh

923. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the World Bank-aided projects undertaken in Andhra Pradesh as on date;
- (b) the funds provided by the World Bank as aid, project-wise; and
- (c) the project-wise and area-wise details of work done so far with the World Bank assistance in Andhra Pradesh?

Interest rate on deposits

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that both public and private sector banks have been benefited to the extent of over Rs. 1500 crore by cut in the rate of interest on savings;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to direct banks to utilize this unearned benefit for social and public utility services or some long-term infrastructure;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, how this money will benefit public interest and Government?

Outsourcing of inspection by DCA

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

- (a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has been outsourcing work on inspection;
- (b) if so, whether Section 209-A of the Companies Act provides for such an arrangement;
- (c) whether the DCA has already

entrusted high profile and sensitive cases like Xerox Modicorp bribery allegations to outside agencies due to paucity of staff and accumulated workload;

- (d) whether the Shardul Shroff Committee has recommended outsourcing of such inspection jobs by the DCA; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Fiscal deficit of special category States

926. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise financial deficit of the special category States during financial years 2001—04;
- (b) the States to whom one-time grant has been given to wipe out their financial deficit; and
- (c) the other measures taken in this regard?

Benami accounts in Banks

927. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that benami accounts are maintained in nationalised banks; and
- (b) if so, what is the number of benami accounts detected in each of the nationalised banks during the last three years?

Committee on taxation of NRIs

928. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a committee has been set-up to study and

analyse the issues relating to taxation of non-residents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the precise terms of reference, the composition of the committee and the time-frame fixed, if any, to submit the report?

Violation of norms by foreign channels

929. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign channels operating in India with the source of funding declared by each of them;

(b) how many foreign channels have violated Government norms; and

(c) the amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) involved in each of these foreign channels and the details of Income Tax paid by these channels in the last financial year?

IRDA's rural area obligations

930. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the private insurance companies have met IRDA's rural area obligations for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken by the IRDA against defaulting companies?

Evasion of excise duty in music industry

931. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge loss of revenue to Government in

the form of evasion of excise duty and sales tax in music industry;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment in this regard;

(c) the losses incurred during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the details of remedial steps proposed to be taken to plug the loopholes, if any?

Refund cases pending in Delhi

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

(a) whether finalization of Income Tax cases where refunds are due is in arrears in Delhi;

(b) the number of such cases pending, circle-wise and year-wise, for the assessment year 1999-2000 onwards;

(c) the number of abovementioned cases, circle-wise and year-wise, where refunds claim/due exceeds rupees ten lakh; and

(d) the action taken to expedite the cases?

Tax-GDP ratio of States

933. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the tax-GDP ratio, State-wise, during the last three years;

(b) whether the tax-GDP ratio of Madhya Pradesh has increased recently;

(c) how this compares with those of the Central Government and whether the Reserve Bank of India has expressed its concern on falling tax-GDP ratio; and

(d) the reasons for increased tax-GDP ratio of Madhya Pradesh and that of

falling/stagnant ratio for Central Government?

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Lead Bank Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) the number of districts in Andhra Pradesh which have been covered under the Lead Bank Scheme, district-wise and the details of Lead Banks of each district; and

(b) the role being played by these Banks in improving credit flow to these districts of the State particularly the rural areas?

Increase in inflation rate

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of inflation has gone up and the value of rupee in comparison to US Dollar, UK Pound and Euro Dollar has gone down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Conversion of IDBI and ICICI into commercial banks

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

(a) whether the IDBI and ICICI Limited have been converted into a commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have dropped the plan to convert IFCI into commercial bank; and

Scholarship for meritorious students

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any proposal from the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding enhancement in scholarship for meritorious students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

ADB aid to Uttar Pradesh

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

(a) the number of projects being executed in Uttar Pradesh with the help of Asian Development Bank;

(b) the details of such projects and the investment made therein; and

(c) the current position of such projects?

Tax-GDP ratio

939. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax-GDP ratio during the last three years has continuously come down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Outsourcing of income tax processing assignments

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

(a) whether Government have assured the public to process all income tax and corporate tax returns within four months and make refunds accordingly in all I.T. Circles;

(b) if so, the number of returns processed and refunds made during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that where it is not possible to make refunds within 4 months of filing the returns, Government propose to outsource the processing assignment; and

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

Status paper on external debt

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

(a) whether Government have recently released a status paper on India's external debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current foreign debt burden on the country as on date; and

(d) whether it is feasible to attain zero debt burden and if so, the measures proposed to be taken to achieve the same?

Opening of ECB window for settlement of NPAs

942. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the opening up of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) window for companies

to settle their Non-Performing Assets (NPAs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's actual stand in respect of granting permission for ECBs of above \$ 100 m?

National Company Law Tribunal

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

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a National Company Law Tribunal with its own appellate body which will be an overarching body dealing with all intra-company and family disputes and company sickness and registration of cooperatives as producer companies; and

(b) if so, the salient features of such a legislative measure proposed to be introduced?

Buy back of bonds to settle NPAs

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to allow banks to buy back their own bonds and to permit them to use the profits that may accrue to write off the bad debts outstanding against big companies, persons and entities; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal/decision, the rationale and the objective thereof?

Settlement of claims

945. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims pending with

four non-life Public Sector Undertaking Insurance companies during the last three years claim-wise, age-wise and amount-wise;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the violations of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority guidelines by these Insurance Companies in settlement of the claims; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government to clear the backlog at the earliest and to ensure that IRDA guidelines are strictly followed?

Issue of PAN Cards

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

(a) whether it is a fact that from 1st July, 2003, for getting Permanent Account Number (PAN) people will have to pay a sum of Rs. 65/-; and

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

Scheme for disclosure of black money

947. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to offer some voluntary disclosure of income scheme in order to convert unaccounted money into accounted one;

(b) whether Government are aware of the magnitude of unaccounted money in the country; and

(c) whether it is a fact that after this conversion Government revenue could go up to the existing size of the Union Government budget proposals of Rs. 4 lakh crores?

Financial irregularities in Real Estate Mutual Fund transactions

948. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Real Estate Mutual Fund transactions more than 50 per cent of the funds are unaccounted which are used for funding real estate constructions and transactions of buying and selling;

(b) in what manner Government propose to address this problem to ensure that only accounted money is used for construction and sale transactions;

(c) what are the main reasons for this malaise; and

(d) whether Government have any plans in the near future to take serious view of these financial irregularities and take any remedial measures to correct the same?

Scrutiny of Income tax returns

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to abolish the present discretion-based system for selection of Income Tax returns for scrutiny;

(b) if so, whether he is aware that some Commissioners of Income Tax have granted permission for selection of cases for scrutiny to assessing officers under them contrary to a good decision; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps he is going to take in this regard?

District Branch Offices of NABARD

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

- (a) whether NABARD has set-up District Branch Offices in each district in all the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Fall in revenue mobilisation

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

- (a) whether revenue mobilisation has been on decline during the last three financial years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether revenue deficit and fiscal deficit has been exceeding the estimates during the last three financial years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

Raids on companies by Central Excise Department

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

- (a) whether Central Excise team has recently raided companies at several places in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies and their locations;
- (c) the amount of tax evasion unearthed as a result thereof; and
- (d) further action, if any, taken against the defaulting companies?

Issue of PAN Cards

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

- (a) the number of Permanent Account Number (PAN) Cards issued by the Income Tax Department in every State;
- (b) whether all the applicants have received their PAN Cards; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in profits of foreign branches of banks

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep decline in the profits of the foreign branches of the leading banks during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government propose to wind-up the non-profitable branches of the banks keeping in view their heavy losses?

Income tax dues

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

- (a) the total amount of income tax due on corporate houses, industrialists and film artists with the detailed list of big defaulters;
- (b) the number of taxpayers who are paying income tax in the country; and
- (c) whether Government have made assessment of the potential taxpayers who could be brought to the fold of income tax net?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Circulation of fake currency notes

956. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake currency notes of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- are being printed in Nepal and are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Nepal and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to replace the image of Ashoka pillars with that of Mahatma Gandhi in all currency notes so as to detect fake notes and if so, by when?

Growing menace of economic crimes

957. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the action taken to deal firmly with the growing menace of economic crimes, serious fraud cases and large crimes involving finance and drugs with possible connections to organised crime or terrorism prevailing in the country?

Enhancement of crude production by ONGC

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

(a) whether ONGC has taken step to increase crude oil and natural gas production;

(b) if so, the achievement made by ONGC in that regard during the last three years;

(c) the offshore and onshore areas where ONGC is presently exploring oil and natural gas; and

(d) the target set by ONGC in the production of oil and natural gas in 2003-2004?

Increase in price of natural gas

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

(a) whether Government had decided to increase the price of natural gas after 1st April, 2003;

(b) if so, by how much it will be increased and by when; and

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has given any representation for not increasing the price of gas; if so, what are the details of the representation?

Exploration of oil and gas in Maharashtra

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

(a) the projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in the seabed of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any progress has been made in this area;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of LNG from Iran

†961. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have signed a pact with Iran for import of some five million tonnes of Liquified

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Natural Gas (LNG) and Government have offered to extend their expertise in refinery upgradation and technology for automotive CNG;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the commercial terms of the LNG imports have not yet been worked out; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and its present status?

Dispute in exploration of oil in Jaisalmer

†962. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether digging is going on in Myal Jar area due to the possibility of huge reserves of oil and gas in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan;
- (b) whether there is any dispute between ONGC and 'Rashtriya Maru Udhyan' regarding this project;
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government to get the project completed and to end the dispute; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Jamnagar-Loni LPG pipeline

963. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

- (a) whether cross-country LPG pipeline from Jamnagar to Loni passes through the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, whether these States are getting any benefit from Central Government as a result thereof?

Indigenous oil production

†964. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 300 mt. of extra oil reserves have been added to the indigenous oil production industry during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the details of the places where these extra oil reserves have been added;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that inspite of this extra oil reserves there is no increase in the indigenous oil production; and
- (d) if not, what was the quantity of total indigenous oil production in 1999-2000 and 2002-2003?

Import price of LPG and Kerosene

†965. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that in order to determine the amount of subsidy on LPG and kerosene by Government, the original price of these products is determined on the basis of their import price;
- (b) if so, the average import price of the above products in the country in the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and
- (c) the details of other such items the expenditure of which are added to this import price apart from the original price?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Purchase price of LPG and Kerosene

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Public
Sector Oil companies have determined the
basis for the procurement of LPG and
Kerosene on the prices prevalent in
November, 2002 and January 2003
respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what
are the reasons for making the prices of
said months as a lease; and

(c) what are the rates at which public
sector oil companies are purchasing LPG
and kerosene oil at present or purchased
the same during past months after
determining the base on the aforesaid
prices?

Extension of West Asian Gas grid

967. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government have
suggested to the United Arab Emirates
that the gas grid of West Asia be extended
to South Asia;

(b) if so, whether this suggestion came
during meetings with a visiting high-level
UAE delegation;

(c) whether the suggestion has been
approved by the UAE; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will be
helpful for India?

**Acquisition of land for oil
exploration**

968. SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN:

SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large area
of agricultural land belonging to poor
agriculturists has been acquired by
Government for oil exploration activities
all over the country;

(b) whether full compensation has
been paid to them by Government;

(c) if so, the details of compensation
paid by Government during the last three
years so far, State-wise; and

(d) if not, by when compensation will
be paid to them?

New oil wells at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

†969. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the
Minister of PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan
of digging new wells in Kharpas area of
Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan due to
availability of oil in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether high quality gas resources
of Kharpas are being utilised in abundance
by Gabber Sui Gas field, Pakistan which
is near the Indian territory; and

(d) if so, the action taken by
Government in this regard and if not, the
reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Setback in oil exploration

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

(a) the names of the States where the work of exploration of oil and natural gas has received a setback recently;

(b) the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the obstacles coming in the way of speedy exploration of oil in new areas?

New LNG Policy

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

(a) by when the LNG policy to address the issues relating to pricing of fuel is going to come before Parliament for its consideration;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in bringing it before Parliament;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the States are opposing this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Exploration of crude oil in Nagaland

972. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Ltd. (OIL) has been allowed to drill in Arunachal Pradesh for the discovery of new oilfields;

(b) if so, whether OIL has started drilling; and

(c) what is the latest position of extraction of crude oil in Nagaland?

Kandla-Loni LPG gas pipeline

973. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Kandla-Loni LPG gas pipeline project which is passing through Rajasthan among other States;

(b) the extent to which it will help in removing the waiting list for the registration of LPG gas connections and wipe out the backlog in the supply of LPG gas cylinders to the customers of Rajasthan;

(c) whether it will also give an opportunity for the supply of mini cylinders to the backward areas of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agreement for import of crude oil

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

(a) the names of the countries from where crude oil is being imported;

(b) whether any agreement for the import of crude oil has been signed recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Political risk insurance cover for Sudan project

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

(a) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has imprudently invested US\$ 670 million in a Sudanese venture without assessing political risks;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Sudan is high on the hit list of US, post-Iraq; and

(c) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has obtained a political risk insurance cover to safeguard its investments/stake in Sudan?

New retail outlets of BPCL

976. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new retail outlets of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., (BPCL);

(b) if so, how many of them will be opened in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) by when they will be opened?

Cost and time overrun of Sakhlain-I project

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

(a) whether India in Sakhlain-I oil/gas project in USSR, is facing time and cost overruns even after having invested a whopping US\$1.422 billion;

(b) if so, whether this is due to Moscow not clearing the feasibility report on flimsy pretexts;

(c) whether according to ONGC Videsh Ltd.'s estimation, the crude from Sakhlain-I is set to flow by 2005; and

(d) how far the present deadlock is going to prolong the delay in the completion of the project?

VRS in IOC

978. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately approved proposal of IOC to offer voluntary retirement to their surplus staff; and

(b) if so, the extent of surplus staff, category-wise and to what extent the staff has been removed by using the VRS?

Gas and oil reserve in NER

979. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total reserve and annual recovery of gas and crude oil in the North Eastern Region indicating block-wise availability and details of plan finalized for production;

(b) the action taken for improvement of domestic crude production and optimum utilization of refineries in Assam showing present status and target set for improvement during the Tenth Plan Period; and

(c) the annual value of gas flared in Assam, investment made and mechanism evolved to prevent flaring of gas with success rate and future prospect?

Present position of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

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

(a) the present position of the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Pakistan has shown its willingness to accord necessary security guarantee to this project; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

Oil refineries

981. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refineries in India in public sector and private sector, State-wise and the amount invested; and

(b) whether Government have made any action plan to start more oil refineries in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Oil reserves in Cauvery Basin

982. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil reserves have been found in Cauvery River Basin;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to explore the crude oil and setting up of oil refineries; and

(c) the details of financial allocation earmarked for oil exploration activities in this Basin?

Reservation policy in appointment of dealers

983. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil sector PSUs will soon be allowed to appoint dealers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the need for this measure; and

(d) in what manner the issue of reservation will be addressed in this scheme?

Mobility of resources for crude oil production

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

(a) whether Government are aware that based on proven reserve of 732 million tonnes of crude oil and with the present GDP growth rate of 6 per cent the demand for crude oil is likely to be 190 million tonnes by 2011-12, which may necessitate 81 per cent import; and

(b) if so, what is our perspective planning in view of a limited resource base, lacking adequate infrastructure and an integrated long-term energy policy?

National Culture Policy

985. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4359 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any decision so far to formulate any National Policy on Culture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be formulated and effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

New areas of tourism interest

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

(a) the total earnings generated by the tourism sector in the country, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tourism potential has not been tapped to the maximum;

(c) if so, the constraints in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that indian tourism industry is suffering on account of lack of infrastructure facilities and security for the tourists, lack of publicity in and outside the country and failure to identify new areas of tourism interest; and

(e) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to address these and other related shortcomings?

Joint marketing of tourism in South India

987. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken for joint marketing of tourism in South India to increase international tourist arrivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to facilitate early entry of foreign airlines into various South Indian metros to boost tourism?

Safety level of Centrally-protected monuments

988. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the safety levels of Centrally-protected monuments in Delhi against lightning strikes; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the standard of lightning conductors?

Setting up of National Culture Fund

†989. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have setup a National Culture Fund;

(b) if so, the total amount deposited in this fund upto March, 2003;

(c) whether Government have decided to spend money from this fund to develop and safeguard the culture of our country; and

(d) if so, the norms adopted to provide loan, grant and other kind of economic assistance from this fund?

Financial assistance to Shri Bismillah Khan

†990. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Internationally renowned Shehnai Player, Shri Bismillah Khan is ill and his economic position is also very deplorable;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have considered to provide him treatment and financial assistance; and

(c) if so, the immediate and permanent scheme to provide assistance to Shri Khan?

Amendment to the Antiquities and Arts Treasures Act, 1972

991. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether, of late, there has been a tremendous increase in the cases of theft of idols, antiques and terracotta paintings from various temples in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the steps taken to prevent the thefts and smuggling;

(c) whether it is proposed to amend the Antiquities and Arts Treasures Act, 1972 for the purpose of dealing with these offences more effectively; and

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

Opening of tourist offices in Shanghai

992. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government are looking East to shore up its tourist arrivals;

(b) if so, whether a recent Indo-China agreement grants India approved destination status, a pre-requisite for Chinese travel;

(c) whether tour operators have been identified and tourist offices are being opened in Shanghai and other places;

(d) if so, whether remnant hitches were ironed out by tourism officials who visited China after the Prime Minister's visit; and

(e) if so, in what manner the tourist inflow has increased as compared to the last year upto now?

Modernisation of IGNCA

993. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the modernisation and smooth functioning of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)?

Effect of media on Indian culture

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

(a) whether it is a fact that TV and other media have been adversely affecting Indian culture;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the psyche of youth of the country has been turning into short temper and utterly violent; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

Promotion of tourist potential of South India

995. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a common strategy for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

promotion of South India as a single tourism destination has been chalked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to double the tourist arrivals in the South India having unlimited tourist potential?

Development of Tirupati Devasthanam

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal to develop Tirupati Devasthanam in Andhra Pradesh as tourism pilgrimage centre; and

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

Facelift to the Sun Temple

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India proposes to give a facelift to the Sun Temple of Konark in Orissa to woo tourists; and

(b) the kinds of inputs in the form of infra-structural facilities and promotional efforts etc. to achieve the objective?

Recovery of outstanding amount by ITDC

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

(a) whether ITDC has decided to seek help of private agencies for recovering amount from its defaulters on the lines of Citi Bank;

~~(b) whether ITDC has outstanding~~

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

amount of about Rs. 30 crore against hotel and travel companies and also Government, semi-Government and private companies; and

(c) whether the decision of the Corporation is judicious; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of I.A.H.S.

999. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish an Indian Archaeological and Heritage Service (IAHS);

(b) what norms are prescribed and what is the nature of training contemplated; and

(c) by when it will come into operation?

Funds allocated for Gulmarg and Pahalgam

1000. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allocated especially for Gulmarg and Pahalgam with a view to promoting tourism in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Historical significance of Siva Temple, Bhojpur

1001. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the renovation and upkeep of ancient Siva Temple, Bhojpur,

30 Kilometres from Bhopal, was taken up quite some time back;

(b) whether the cover-up work of the mound has been lying suspended for the last more than three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when it would restart; and

(e) the expected date of its completion?

Taking over of Management of Shrines

1002. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the management of all the Shrines and religious places;

(b) whether the matter has been discussed with the States; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

World Heritage status to historical paintings of Bhimbaiithaka caves in M.P.

†1003. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO, is considering to grant of World Heritage status to historical paintings in Bhimbaiithaka caves near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Organisation has agreed to give financial assistance for the purpose and if so, the extent of assistance proposed to be provided; and

(d) whether Government are also considering to give financial assistance

and if so, the extent of assistance proposed to be provided?

Development of tourism in upper Assam

1004. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any comprehensive view to develop tourism in upper Assam as it contains the Kajiranga Abhayaranya, the historical monuments of Cheraideo, Gargaon, Sivasagar, and also Satriya cultural heritage site of Majuli etc.; and

(b) if so, what are the plans to develop the region for tourism including development of Cheraideo after excavation of Maidaam No. 2 by A.S.I. and through announcing Cheraideo as world heritage site?

Safety of tourists

†1005. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps have been taken by Government to save domestic and foreign tourists from touts;

(b) whether Government also review the measures taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, at what interval?

Tourists from Gulf and West Asia region

1006. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

increase in the number of tourists since 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government propose to attract more tourists from Gulf and West Asia regions; and

(c) if so, Government's strategy in this regard?

Promotion of tourism in Kashmir

1007. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to devise a scheme to promote tourism in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering to bring places of pilgrimage into the fold of such a scheme?

Media campaign for tourist attraction

1008. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state whether Government are considering to start an effective campaign through electronic and print media with extensive International reach to present India as a major tourist attraction for global/foreign tourists?

Changing course of river Subarnarekha in Orissa

1009. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Subarnarekha river in Orissa frequently changes its course posing serious problem to the stability of the embankments and existence of the nearby villages;

(b) whether this has been examined by some experts to remedy the situation; and

(c) the help rendered by Government to protect the people living by the riverside villages from floods?

Clearance of A.P. projects

1010. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA

SEKAR REDDY:

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to clear their pending water projects early;

(b) if so, the details of projects of Andhra Pradesh Government cleared during the last three years; and

(c) the details of projects still to be cleared?

White paper on river linking project

1011. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY

SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA

RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineers, environmentalists, former bureaucrats, scientists, academicians etc., have written to Government for a white paper on the proposed inter-linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the memorandum submitted to Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the

proposed linking of rivers require more power than it will generate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Revision of National Water Policy

1012. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed and revised the National Water Policy to incorporate the goal of inter-linking of national rivers; and

(b) if so, the details of the revised policy, if any, since drawn and if not, the reasons therefor?

Project for ground water recharge

1013. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Sector Scheme of "study of recharge of ground water" launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period is being continued during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects approved under the scheme?

Central assistance under AIBP to Rajasthan

1014. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to accord Rajasthan special status under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) due to its desert,

drought conditions, hilly and tribal regions similar to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, by when and whether Rajasthan will be entitled to the same liberal norms as these States under Central loan assistance; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Management of water resources

1015. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to prevailing drought situation in the country, the water sources have dried up and the country is not in a position to meet its demand of water;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make the country drought free and the amount required therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the policy relating to management of water resources; if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of Water

1016. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rain-fed and snow-fed water utilised by the animal and plant kingdom and the percentage utilised by organised agriculture;

(b) the extent of success of the water shed management in catching water in the service of society;

(c) Governments plan to stop drainage

of rain-water in the heavily rainfall areas of the country; and

(d) the plan of Government to maintain equilibrium of the flow of water between the excess and deficit area in terms of rainfall?

Proposal for flood control in Bihar

†1017. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Bihar for flood control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, what action Government have taken to control floods at their own level?

Linking of Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga river

†1018. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Environment and Forests has rejected the project of linking Manas Sankop-Tista-Ganga rivers due to environmental reasons;

(b) if so, the details of objections raised by that Ministry; and

(c) whether these objections apply to the projects of inter-linking of other rivers also?

Water share due to Kerala

1019. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual water share due to Kerala

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

from Parampikulam-Aliyar Agreement;

(b) whether Government are aware that only 0.7 tmc. of water is diverted from Cauvery against the 147 tmc. which is actually due to Kerala;

(c) whether Government are also aware that Kerala is not getting its water share from Tamil Nadu since May 15, which resulted in drought in the Palghat District; and

(d) whether Government would intervene and ask Tamil Nadu to allocate the due share to Kerala?

Pamba-Achencovil-Vaipar link project

1020. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are determined to implement the proposal of Pamba-Achencovil-Vaipar link project without taking into consideration Kerala's objections;

(b) whether Government think that there is surplus water in Pamba and Achencovil rivers which is liable to be diverted to Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the reasons which prompted Government to arrive at such a conclusion;

(d) whether Government are aware that a study conducted by CWRDM shows that there is water deficit in those rivers; and

(e) whether Government would accept the study of the above agency?

Allocation of funds for flood havoc in Assam

1021. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious flood havoc in eight districts of Assam during the last fortnight;

(b) what help has been offered to Assam Government to cope with the situation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the nodal Ministry of Water Resources has not released any fund to Assam Government since 2000 for flood management in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) in what manner Government intend to help the State in flood management during the current year 2003-04?

Germany's help for river linking project

1022. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought German expertise in the project for linking major rivers in India;

(b) if so, the details of help Germany has rendered or propose to render to Government to link major rivers;

(c) whether the target of linking major rivers would be completed as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Awareness about rain water harvesting

1023. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to create awareness and provide practical information on rain water harvesting to reach out the co-operative group housing societies and colonies in the metros;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the list of rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge schemes under Central Sector under implementation in Tamil Nadu and the amount allocated for the scheme?

Problem of flood and drought in the country

1024. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the problem of certain areas in the country facing problem of floods while other areas registering perpetual drought;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to solve the problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Expenditure on water-shed programme in Kashmir

1025. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that enormous amount of money has been invested in Kashmir under water-shed development programme; and

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the funds have been misused and misappropriated?

which joins North and South Bengal is in an extremely dilapidated condition which could give way any time;

Connectivity of Ganga river at Farrakha

(b) if so, whether Government have called for any special report from their official experts in the matter;

1026. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that experts and engineers have observed that the connectivity on the Ganga river at Farrakha

(d) what immediate steps are proposed to be taken in this regard so as to prevent any mishap or accident?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd July, 2003

Sravana 1, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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