

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 29, 2005/Agrahayana 8, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions —155

New airport at Mopa, Goa

580. SHRISHANTARAMLAXMAN
NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to
construct an airport at Mopa, Goa;

(b) if so, whether necessary land has
been acquired;

(c) the details of the compensation made
so far;

(d) whether the existing airport is
proposed to be closed down;

(e) if not, whether the same is proposed
to be expanded/upgraded; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Recommendations of Paul Committee

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the K. Roy
Paul Committee, set up to suggest ways to
tackle the worsening congestion of flights

over Delhi and Mumbai airports, has
submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the major
recommendations made or the action plan
suggested by the Committee; and

(c) the short/long term plans drawn up
to decongest the skies at both the airports
and their present status?

Flights handled by Mumbai and Delhi airports

582. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased
to state:

(a) the No. of airports in the country
which are of international standard;

(b) the No. of flights per hour handled
by Mumbai and Delhi airports; and

(c) what is the international standard
and the reasons for it being so low, when
these two face congestion?

Revision in fares of IA and AI

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

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and the Air India have revised air fares and freight rates during the last three months;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons for the increase?

Action plan for development of Civil Aviation in U.P.

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

(a) whether any action plan has been prepared by Government for the development of Civil Aviation in UP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

New international airport at Navi Mumbai

585. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in clearance of the project proposal for setting up an International airport at Navi Mumbai from different authorities concerned;

(b) the salient features of the project, the infrastructure connected therewith and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the details of its implementation schedule, so as to be able to meet the growing traffic needs of Mumbai by 2010-11?

Overhauling of airports in MP, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh

†586. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA

CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the airports in the country especially in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh proposed to be identified by Government for overhauling and to bring them upto international standard;

(b) whether Government would also fix time frame to complete the construction work of these airports, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred in the construction of each of it?

Norms on passenger aircraft cockpit door

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has revised the norms for making the passenger aircraft cockpit doors bulletproof;

(b) if so, the details of the revised norms and how the revised norms are different from the existing ones; and

(c) whether the DGCA has recommended any new norms for security training course to crew members?

Modernisation of non-metro airports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are moving swiftly to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

modernize 30 non-metro airports with the help of private players;

(b) if so, the details of the airports identified by the AAI, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no airport from Andhra Pradesh has been identified for modernization;

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed to modernise the non-metro airports; and

(e) whether the proposal has been scrutinised by the Committee on Infrastructure?

Take-off and landing space at airports

589. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the short-term measures proposed by Government to reduce delays due to lack of take-off and landing space at major airports like Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that on average the planes circle over Delhi for 30 minutes to one hour just to land or take-off;

(c) what short term steps have been put in place to reduce such delays since November 1, 2005;

(d) whether it is a fact that lack of software or technical expertise of our air traffic controllers is creating further problems; and

(e) the steps proposed to immediately improve take-off and landing times of our planes and reduce delays?

Immigration counters at airports

590. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that international passengers face delays of an average of one hour at immigration counters both on arrivals and departures;

(b) what is the problem in having more immigration desks and officers at peak hours;

(c) the details of the management problems involved in creating adequate immigration counters and placing more staff to reduce delays and harassment;

(d) whether it is a fact that immigration staff is also inefficient and cavalier in their work; and

(e) the steps proposed to sensitise such staff immediately to help passengers at airports?

Extension of Pantnagar airport

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

(a) whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has made a request for the extension of the Pantnagar airport and also to start regular flights of the small airlines from there;

(b) if so, the details of the request received from the State Government;

(c) whether the Ministry have taken necessary steps for the extension of the said airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for upgradation of airports

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

(a) the details of on-going projects for development/upgradation of various

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

airports both at national and international level in the country particularly the upgradation of Mumbai Airport in Maharashtra as an International Airport;

(b) the details of targets set for completing/upgradation of each airport, location-wise till date; and

(c) the funds allocated/released during 2004-05 and 2005-06 year-wise, and airport-wise for this purpose particularly Mumbai Airport, till date?

Mechanism for uninterrupted air services

†593. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry propose to make effective Mechanism to ensure uninterrupted air services and timely landing/taking off of aircrafts at the airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the action taken so far/ proposed to be taken?

Profits earned by IA

594. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines which was in the red earlier, now started making profits due to restructuring by Government; and

(b) if so, what is the total profit which Indian Airlines made during the year 2004-2005?

Air connectivity to Middle-East countries

595. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large chunk of non-resident Indians are working in Arab and Middle East countries;

(b) whether flights to those countries are not adequate and also the fare is very high;

(c) whether there has been demand for reduction of fare and increase in the connectivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Violations of safety norms by private airlines

596. SHRISHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Open Sky Policy has been successful in the country;

(b) whether there were any instances in which private airlines were found to be violating safety norms during their operations;

(c) if so, the details of such instances; and

(d) the action taken in such matters?

Agreement with State Governments

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

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade small airfields in the country;

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

(c) the total estimated cost of upgradation of each of these airports;

(d) whether some State Governments have agreed to enter into agreement with the Central Government in upgrading these airports; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the details of State Governments who have agreed to the proposal and the details of State Governments who have not agreed to this proposal?

Shifting of ATR flight headquarters

598. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ATR Flights are meant for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the reasons that ATR flights are being operated from Kolkata instead of Guwahati; and

(c) whether Government propose to shift the ATR Flight Headquarters from Kolkata to Guwahati and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Problems relating to upgradation of Amritsar Airport

599. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following the upgradation of Amritsar Airport, passengers are facing problems due to (i) limited holding area for arriving passengers (ii) frequent breaking down of baggage belt (iii) congestion of baggage claim area and (iv) non-air-conditioning of the departure and check area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ongoing and major contract works have also come to a standstill after Government's decision in Feb. 2005 to revive the proposed Terminal Building; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to complete all the works including Arrival/Departure Halls and cargo building units to improve the situation?

Decongestion of airports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that aircraft movements have grown rapidly in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of growth with details during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that flights are being delayed for take off and landing due to this increase in air traffic; and

(d) the steps taken to decongest airports so as to avoid delay of aircrafts?

New airport at Arunachal Pradesh

†601. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an airport in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Purchase of aircraft by AI

602. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally cleared Air India's Plan of Rs. 40,000 crore fleet acquisition from U. S. Manufacturer, Boeing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that two proposals of the Air India to acquire 64 aircrafts were cleared by the Public Investment Board; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Amendment in Civil Aviation Requirement

603. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) are not in consonance with the recently amended Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955 and guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on dual citizenship;

(b) whether according to the Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955 as amended recently, and the guidelines of the MHA, FDI in Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines) is permitted to PIO cardholder;

(c) if so, reasons for not bringing amendments in obsolete 30 year old CAR; and

(d) steps being taken to rectify the anomaly by amending the CAR thus permitting similar dispensation to PIO cardholders as are given to NRIs in case of the FDI investment in domestic aviation sector?

Non-compliance of rules by companies

604. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two lakh companies are not abiding proper rules and regulations of Government;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government so far against the erring companies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are unable to take stringent steps against the erring companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are seriously considering to adopt e-governance system for ensuring transparency and efficiency?

Amendment of Chartered Accountants Act

605. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Chartered Accountant's Act, by incorporating provisions for special audit of the books of Chartered Accountants;

(b) whether under this new provision Government would vest with itself the power to order special audit of CAs; and

(c) whether Government can exercise such powers to enforce professional discipline in the regulatory body through its nominees in the governing council of ICAI?

Simplified Settlement Scheme for firms

606. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced that it would introduce a Simplified Settlement Scheme for firms found violating the Companies Act and look at striking off;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that almost 50 per cent of the more than six lakh companies do not comply with Companies Act provisions;

(d) if so, the details of such companies found violating the Act;

(e) the action taken against such companies; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to make laws more stringent against such companies in future?

Repayment of amount to small investors

607. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies which have accepted fixed deposits from small investors and have not paid dues thereon to the investors;

(b) what is the present status of these companies; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for the repayment of amount to the small investors?

Raising of capital to increase GDP

608. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country requires Rs. 60,000 crore in the next five years to increase its GDP; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the banks to raise capital to increase the GDP?

Raids against IRS officers

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

(a) the details of IRS officers, against whom raids were conducted by the CBI on charges of corruption during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the nature of departmental and other action taken against them so far?

New Branches of foreign banks

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to provide more liberal market access to foreign banks, India has offered at least 20 new branches of foreign banks every year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the limit bound by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as of now is 12 foreign bank branches every year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Encouragement of foreign investment

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Great Britain and other countries of European Union have taken initiative to encourage investment in India but are feeling reluctant regarding the slow progress of infrastructural development and negative attitude of Indian bureaucracy; and

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

Rural credit by banks

612. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rural credit extended by various Public Sector Banks in the country in the agriculture sector is only 36 per cent; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to achieve 100 per cent in extending rural credit in the farm sector?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Expansion of financial sectors

†613. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Treasury Secretary of American John Snow had urged that financial sectors of India should be expanded with a view to encourage foreign exchange;

(b) if so, when such request was made;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to increase foreign exchange investment in financial sector, insurance and also in estate construction companies; and

(d) if so, the date of decision taken alongwith details of benefit to the country?

ATM card facilities in rural areas

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

(a) whether Government have introduced the proposed ATM card facilities in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages in Rajasthan specifically in Jaipur and Ajmer region, earmarked by Government for providing ATM card facilities in first phase; and

(c) the details of beneficiary villages thereof?

World Bank loans to Rajasthan

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

(a) the names of schemes for which World Bank has issued loan to the State Government of Rajasthan so far alongwith the terms and conditions laid by World Bank for these loans; and

(b) the details of amount of interest being paid to the World Bank by the State Government of Rajasthan each year?

Consolidation of Public Sector Banks

616. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to consolidate Public Sector Banks despite stiff opposition from staff unions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether employees interests will be kept in mind if the proposal is implemented?

ATM facilities in U.P. and Bihar

617. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where ATM facility has been provided by different banks, bank-wise; and

(b) the plans for the current and the next financial year?

Separate insurance company for livestock

†618. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open a separate insurance company for livestock;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government are aware that insurance companies are not insuring the private livestock; and

(c) the targets Government are fixing for insuring private livestock, district-wise/ State-wise/UT-wise?

NPA's of Public Sector Banks

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

(a) what is the current level of NPAs of Public Sector banks, bank-wise;

(b) whether any action has been initiated to reduce the NPAs of Public Sector Banks; and

(c) if so, the details and results thereof during the last three years, bank-wise and year-wise?

Debt burden of States

†620. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the debt burden of various State Governments during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission has considered this issue and suggested remedial measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Banking and Insurance Ombudsmen

621. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has appointed Banking and Insurance Ombudsmen for redressal of grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations of their offices; and

(c) the details of cases disposed off and pending as on date?

World Development Report, 2006

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

(a) whether Government are aware that in the World Development Report 2006, World Bank has mentioned that bribe and price rise are the worst secret tax for poor people, if so, whether people of India also suffer from it;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to make people free from it;

(c) whether he will consider upon the recommendations of the World Bank in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Debt burden of States

†623. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maximum amount of the loan given to the States is spent on the development of infrastructure facilities that does not earn sufficient income to pay the interest even;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present arrangement has increased the debt-burden on the States so drastically that they have been trapped in the debt-net and their financial management is becoming disorderly; and

(c) if so, by when this anomaly would be sorted out?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial aid to poor farmers

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

(a) whether the institutional finance agencies have failed to provide finance to the poor farmers resulting in more suicides by farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

Constitution of Sixth Pay Commission

625. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended in para 171.11 and 171.12 of its Report that the Sixth Central Pay Commission should be constituted by 1st Jan. 2003, so that its report may come out by 1st Jan. 2006;

(b) if so, then why Government are not constituting Sixth Central Pay Commission on the plea that 50 per cent D.A. has been merged with the Basic Pay of the Central Government Employees;

(c) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent D.A. merger was done as per the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission; and

(d) how much more time Government propose to take for the constitution of Sixth Pay Commission?

Merger of mints and paper mills

626. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to merge mints, security process and paper mills into a Corporation to improve their productivity and financial performances;

(b) if so, by when the Corporation is likely to come into effect; and

(c) the details of the action plan *inter-alia* indicated the outlay involved in the process?

World Bank Assistance to Orissa

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank propose to sanction Rs. 1000 crores to the State Government of Orissa during the current fiscal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of developmental works that would be funded out of this assistance in the State?

Manipulations in LIC Premiums

†628. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several incidents of manipulation in the premium of the people by the officials of LIC have been reported to Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the people involved in the said scam; and

(d) the details of the action taken by Government to check the recurrence of such scam in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Delay in *Ex-gratia* payments

629. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total amount announced for *ex-gratia* payment by different Ministries of the Central Government in the last three years, year-wise, Ministry-wise and accident-wise;

(b) what is the mechanism of identifying and delivering such amount to the affected persons or families;

(c) whether all such cases in the last three years have received the payment;

(d) whether Government are aware of delay in delivering the amount to the affected persons or families, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure expeditious delivery?

Seizure of imported vehicles by DRI

630. SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI :
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have seized about half a dozen imported vehicles where import/customs duty was not paid;

(b) if so, how many such vehicles were seized during 2003 and 2004; and

(c) how much amount was imposed as penalty?

Revenue collected under FBT

†631. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue collected under the Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) head in the first and second quarter (*i.e.* April-June and July-September) of the fiscal year 2005-06;

(b) the percentage of the said amount with respect to total amount collected as Income Tax; and

(c) whether Government are aware of any decision of Madras High Court regarding Fringe Benefit Tax and if so, the details thereof?

Increase in ranking in terms of PPP

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as the fourth largest nation in terms of Purchasing Power Parity and it now needs to realign its strategies and policy framework to become 3rd largest by 2025;

(b) whether PPP is yet another measure for world economies, wherein US topped with \$10 trillion, followed by China, Japan and India;

(c) whether in order to be part of global competitive world, India has many challenges on hand where Indian companies approach business;

(d) whether Government should plan strategies not based on ideology but on achieving planned results; and

(e) if so, what efforts Government propose to take in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reduction of excise duties on cars and two wheelers

†633. SHRI SURENDRA LATH
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the reaction from the automobile industry in the country;

(b) whether Government have decided to reduce excise duties to be levied on cars and two wheelers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Economic co-operation with US

†634. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of discussions held between India and US during his five days visit to America on further strengthening economic co-operation with a view to maintain the growth rate at more than seven per cent;

(b) whether positive results have accrued as a result of this discussion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when such results would be achieved?

Regulation of Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions

635. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments and Centre arrived at a consensus that Registrar of Co-operatives of States would continue to regulate Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions, rather than passing this responsibility directly to RBI;

(b) whether this decision was taken at a meeting between Centre and State Governments to discuss implementation of Vaidyanathan Committee report on revival of Rural Co-operative Credit Institutions;

(c) if so, whether he has announced that Centre and States would arrive at a consensus by October, 2005 for Rs. 15000 crore financial package and other reform measures; and

(d) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been reached and finalised?

Promotion of small scale industries in H.P. and Orissa

†636. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the Small Industries Development Bank of India in promoting small scale industries in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) the number of small scale industrial units set up during the last three years, year-wise and the amount of loans disbursed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India;

(c) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India has proposed to expand the scope of its activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bilateral investment protection agreement with foreign oil investors

637. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry are considering a proposal to give foreign oil investors under 40 odd bilateral investment protection agreement, national treatment prior to their establishment in India;

(b) if so, whether FDI and portfolio investment in sectors which are delicensed and wherein 100 per cent FDI is allowed through automatic route, would be treated at par with domestic investors for all regulatory purposes;

(c) whether Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry have been asked to weigh pros and cons; and

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

Issue of pension norms by PFRDA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority has issued norms for fund managers alongwith the investment pattern of various pension schemes;

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

(c) whether the PFRDA has specified the minimum regulatory requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Suspension of ICICI bank officials

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

(a) whether the ICICI bank has recently suspended some staffers from the treasury department for overstepping trading transaction limits allotted to them;

(b) if so, the quantum of loss incurred by the bank through this lapse; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to all banks to put in place a prudent Risk Management System to maintain a sense of discipline?

Guidelines for investments in stock market

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

(a) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange or the Ministry issued any guidelines for investments so as to be mindful of risks associated with dealing in the stock market due to unprecedented rise in sensenx;

(b) whether any feedback is given either by the stock exchange or SEBI with regard to corporate developments to the investors; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Insurance policy scam

641. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.
GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has unearthed an insurance policy scam in which some LIC agents and staff used the premium paid by MCD employees;

(b) if so, what is the magnitude of the scam and what is the *modus operandi* involved;

(c) whether it shows the high handedness of agents as they are alleged to be diverting premium and using it to attract fresh policy holders and how it was made possible; and

(d) the details of steps being taken to stop similar incidents in future?

Introduction of Ten Rupees coin

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India propose to introduce Rs. 10 coins by 2006-07;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RBI has decided to reintroduce notes of Rs. 5 due to shortage of such coins; and

(c) if so, the important features of Rs. 10 coins?

Thailand as new hub of fake currency notes

643. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Thailand is the new hub of the racket to pump fake currency notes into India, in addition to traditional bases like Pakistan and Bangladesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per official estimates the number of fake currency in circulation is 61,000 million pieces (of different denominations) worth Rs. 1,69,000 crore per year; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make counterfeiting difficult?

Miscalculation of Income Tax assesseees

644. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 87,608 individuals in 2004-05 have an assessed income exceeding Rs. 10 lakh a year;

(b) if so, the details of such assesseees in each State/UT;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said figure is under valued, given the spectacular growth in the services sector in recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the NCAER has estimated that there may be around 1.7 million households having an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh in 2005-06; and

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

Rise in prices of essential commodities

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the soaring prices of essential commodities in the market;

(b) if so, the extent to which the prices of essential commodities have gone up during the last one year;

(c) the reasons for increase in the price of essential commodities in the market; and

(d) the measures taken to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities?

Introduction of Rupees 10 coin

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

(a) whether Government are considering

favourably for introduction of the Rupees 10 coin in the country on the pattern of Rupee one, Rupees Two and Rupees Five Coins;

(b) if so, by when such coin is expected to be introduced; and

(c) to what extent such coin shall save the price of currency note paper?

Failure to increase the FDI cap on insurance sector

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

(a) whether the U.S. Ambassador to India has accused Government of 'breach of faith' for the latter's failure to hike FDI cap in the insurance sector from the existing 26 per cent to 49 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and factual position relating thereto; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Irregularities by credit card holders

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to continuous increase in the number of credit cards in the country by banks and irregularities being committed by the credit card holders, the global banking system has to suffer a loss to the tune of billions of rupees;

(b) if so, whether global banking organizations have given information about such irregularities in their respective countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

Scheme for VRS employees

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

(a) whether there is any scheme to enable all the employees to deposit their entire statutory benefits and special amounts which they receive under Voluntary Retirement Scheme, several years before their superannuation stage, to get higher rate of Interest, to enable them to lead a secured life financially, with great security for their deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose some measures in this direction for all the VRS employees in our country; and

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

Outstanding taxes against corporate houses

650. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the outstanding amount of taxes including income-tax, Central excise, corporate tax etc. against corporate houses and industrialists alongwith the time since when outstanding, during the last three years, company-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the reason for not realising the outstanding amount;

(c) whether Government have announced any rebate and incentives to encourage timely deposit of Income Tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

simplify the tax system and realisation of outstanding amount?

Lack of security in printing press at Mysore

651. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been irregularities and lack of security in printing press at Mysore; and

(b) if so, what corrective action has been taken?

Raids on share brokers

†652. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of share-brokers raided by the Income Tax department during the months of September, October and November;

(b) the extent of illegal assets unearthed during the raids; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereto?

Theft of stamp papers in transit through railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the aggregate of the reported cases of loss/thefts of the stamp papers in transit through railways during 1995-2000 were over Rs. 25 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the loss of stamps in transit during 1993-2003 for Assam is worth Rs. 146.66 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action was taken and against whom?

Complaints against private banks

654. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against the functioning of any private sector bank in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether Government have conducted an enquiry into the working of the banks; and

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

Payment of amount insured for livestock

†655. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases received by the insurance companies during the last five years for the payment of amount insured for livestock with details thereof, district-wise/State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the action taken by the insurance companies in the aforesaid cases and the number of pending cases, year-wise;

(c) by when the pending cases would be disposed of; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the corruption by the insurance companies in the matter, if so, whether Government have taken any action against the officials involved in corruption?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amendment in livestock insurance regulations

‡656. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend livestock insurance regulations;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make the terms and conditions of insurance of livestock similar to that of vehicles/business establishments; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to give directions to the insurance companies under Government for payment of the sum insured by them in the cases of looting/theft of livestock, selling them to the slaughter houses by the criminals/killing them and also in case of non-recovery of the booty/livestock by the police after police enquiry?

Expert Committee on Exempt Exempt Tax System

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

(a) whether Government have finalised the personnel for the Experts Committee proposed to be set up to work out the road map for moving towards an Exempt and Exempt Tax System (EET); and

(b) if so, by when the committee is likely to be set up and the time to be allowed to it to report to Government?

Duping of customers by multinational banks

658. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been

received regarding malpractices and duping of customers by multinational banks in the country during the last year and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to rectify the situation?

Sale of holding in Maruti Udyog

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to sell its entire holding in JV Maruti Udyog;

(b) the amount expected to be realised by divestment in MUL;

(c) whether the realised money will be spent on social projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, how the realised amount is proposed to be utilised?

Increase in gold prices due to soaring oil prices

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in crude oil prices has influenced rise in price of gold in domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that local traders do not take undue advantage of the situation?

GDP growth rate

661. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the major areas of economic reforms

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

advocated by the present Government to sustain high growth rate;

(b) to what extent he has been successful in implementing such reforms;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are glaring gaps in the Infrastructure Sector and the proposed tax reforms; and

(d) to what extent better monsoon and higher farm growth will help GDP growth?

Misuse of funds allotted to NGOs

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

(a) whether Accountants General at their annual meeting held in New Delhi on September 22, 2005 expressed serious concern about misuse, abuse and misappropriation of funds and resources allotted to the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) for various Government schemes;

(b) if so, the precise observations and suggestions made by the Accountants General at the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to prevent such abuse of resources?

Task force on Rural Co-operatives

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

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers was called in September, 2005 to consider implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force headed by Prof. Vaidyanathan on Rural Co-operatives and Banking and Credit facilities;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Task Force and the decisions taken to implement the same; and

(c) whether it was decided to make adequate credit facilities available for farmers at reasonable rates so as to realise an annual growth of 3 to 4 per cent in agriculture and if so, the steps to be taken in this direction?

Circulation of fake currency notes

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

(a) whether counterfeit currency notes, particularly of higher denomination, are in circulation in large scale across the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected during the last three years;

(c) whether Government are aware that counterfeit currency notes have been dispensed through banks, cash counters and ATMs;

(d) if so, the number of such cases detected and action taken in each case;

(e) in what manner the customers, who have received counterfeit currency through a bank's cash counter/ATM, get them replaced with a genuine notes; and

(f) what measures are contemplated to prevent circulation of counterfeit currency notes in the country?

Use of own ink for currency notes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to use its own ink on its currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

FDI in retail sector

666. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Government propose to introduce the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill but at the same time rendering crores of small time shopkeepers and vendors jobless all over the country through the move on FDI in retail sector;

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

(c) whether any corrective steps are being considered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pension cases pending in SBI

667. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terminal benefits/family pension payment cases pending in State Bank of India and the normal time taken to release these benefits;

(b) whether it is a fact that many pension related cases are pending due to acute shortage of staff in State Bank of India, Local Head Office, Hyderabad, forcing thereby the families of the deceased employees/officers to beg; and

(c) what immediate steps the Ministry would take to release these benefits to the families of the deceased employees/officers?

Re-launching of MAPIN

668. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to re-launch Market Participants

and Investor Database (MAPIN);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Jagdish Kapoor Committee appointed for this purpose have recommended the scrapping of MAPIN scheme; and

(d) if so, the reasons for re-launching of the scheme?

Reduction in plan assistance of States

†669. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether plan assistance of the States is reduced in proportion to amount not utilised by the State as per the previous years' approved plan; and

(b) the basis of this reduction as the plan assistance has no relation with the size of the plan?

Fake currency in Indian market

670. SHRISANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been growing rate of fake currency in the Indian market since last six months;

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

(c) whether Government have presented a routemap of fake Indian currency notes circulation network before Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, response of Government of Bangladesh and steps taken against counterfeit currency route?

Grant to local bodies

671. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 25,000 crores grant for local bodies between 2005 and 2010;

(b) if so, how much would be the share of Panchayati Raj;

(c) in what manner his ministry is planning to utilize the money that it is going to get;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Separate law on Panchayati Courts

672. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to draft a separate law on Panchayati Courts;

(b) if so, what will be the status of Panchayati Raj system; and

(c) the details of the separate law on Panchayati Courts?

Financial and administrative powers to PRIs

†673. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to provide financial and administrative powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;

(b) whether positive results have been achieved as a result of the steps taken previously, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government have taken to review the functions of various Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to resolve the problems posed by the representatives of these Institutions?

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

674. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up 'Gram Nyayalayas' in the country to provide easy, cheap and speedy justice to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, necessary legislative measure would be brought before Parliament?

Women leaders in Panchayats

675. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are above ten lakh women leaders in Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to enable women to take active role in the matter relating to their village and taluk; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Implementation of Acts in respect of PRIs

676. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the Constitution (73rd Amendment), Act, 1992 and the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Areas) Act, 1996 have been implemented in various States/Union Territories; and

(b) what are the future plans in this regard?

Meeting on TAP project

677. SHRI K. RAMA M OHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has accepted the observer status in the proposed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas project; and

(b) the details of outcome of the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee of the project held in the third week of October, 2005?

Losses suffered by ONGC in Mumbai High fire

678. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether the fire incident at Mumbai High North on 27th July, 2005 caused extensive damage to life and property, apart from loss of production for a long period;

(b) what is the amount of loss suffered by ONGC on account of this mishap;

(c) what amount is settled by insurance company; and

(d) what steps are taken/initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

ONGC's bid for Petro-Kazakhstan

679. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC Videsh-Mittal bid for Petro Kazakhstan has been rejected in favour of China's National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) even though the ONGC Videsh-Mittal combine bid was higher than the CNPC;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allotment of petrol pumps in Andhra Pradesh

680. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps allotted by public sector oil companies in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases in which No Objection Certificates for setting up of petrol pumps were sought from the district collectors in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details of criteria used for allowing the setting up of petrol pumps;

(d) whether any complaint has been received about violations of these criteria in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Obstacles to Indo-Iran gas pipeline project

†681. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Electric Company, America has refused to provide LNG-related vital equipment to Tehran;

(b) if so, to what extent it will adversely affect Indo-Iran-gas-pipeline project;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any alternative plan under the circumstances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Adulteration in petroleum products

682. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anti-Adulteration Cell for petroleum products has been wound up in 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what alternative steps have been taken to check adulteration in petroleum products;

(d) whether the alternative steps have proved more effective in checking adulteration in petroleum products; and

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

Shifting of ONGC offices

†683. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many offices of ONGC, Dehradun have been either closed or opened somewhere else and number of employees and officers working therein have been reduced;

(b) whether local public representatives have submitted memorandum to them against this step; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing the number of employees of ONGC, Dehradun and what steps are being taken to address the above grievances of the public representatives?

Revision in prices of petroleum products

684. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a high power committee to formulate a fuel pricing policy and taxation regime for petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided not to revise the prices of petroleum products till March, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of independent Directors

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

(a) the guidelines for appointment of independent Directors on the Board of a Navratna or a mini-Navratna Oil PSUs to make them globally competitive and to have a level playing field with the corporates;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the Department of Public Enterprises for appointing independent Directors on the Board of Oil PSUs in the recent past;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of candidates recommended for appointment as independent Directors on the Board of Oil PSUs;

(d) whether it is a fact that Ministry has rejected them and decided to fill in the places with politicians; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Diversion of domestic LPG for commercial purposes

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

(a) the number of domestic LPG consumers in Karnataka;

(b) the number of LPG consumers in Bangalore City;

(c) the quantum in metric tonnes of cooking gas required every month;

(d) whether there is any shortage of domestic LPG in Karnataka;

(e) whether the new domestic LPG connections have been stopped in Karnataka;

(f) whether Government are aware that nearly 25 per cent of the LPG meant for domestic consumption is being diverted to hotels, restaurants and automobile filling stations; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to stop this pilferage?

Participation in Qatar-Pakistan pipeline project

†687. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Iran-India Gas pipe line scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to move back from this scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are considering to become a part of Qatar-Pakistan Gas pipe line Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of natural gas with Germany's assistance

†688. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to take assistance from Germany to promote natural gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Discrimination against SC/ST employees

689. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that different rules and policies are being followed by all the three wings of Indian Oil Corporation *i.e.* Marketing, Pipeline and Refinery wings pertaining to promotions and transfer of their employees;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are particularly transferred to far-off places in the country while others are retained at one place upto 20-25 years or more or are posted at the places of their choices; and

(c) whether there is any machinery to look into or check such discrimination against the SC and ST employees?

Non-availability of LPG cylinders

690. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
DR. M.A.M.
RAMASWAMY:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.
GOYAL:
SHRI AJAY MAROO:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there had been an acute shortage of L.P.G. cylinders during the month of September and October, 2005 in the Capital;

(b) whether it is a fact that gas cylinders were available in the black market at the rate of Rs. 600 to 700 as against its actual cost of Rs. 250; and

(c) whether Government had conducted any enquiry in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the dealers of L.P.G. connection in this regard?

BPCL's deal with British Petroleum

691. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BPCL has signed a deal with British Petroleum to obtain six lakh barrels of the crude in October, when the 1,764 km. BTC pipeline is operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it will help for India's oil need with the details thereof?

Revival of public sector undertakings

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

(a) the details of petroleum public sector undertakings existing in each State/U.T.;

(b) the number of petroleum PSUs which were in profit, State/UT-wise;

(c) the number of petroleum PSUs which were in losses, State/UT-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have prepared any road map to bring the loss making PSUs into profit with a definite time-frame; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Policy on new CNG stations

†693. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments are opening up CNG fuel stations without the permission of Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Governments are empowered to set up their own CNG fuel stations;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government are considering to prepare any policy for gas distribution, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have asked for suggestions from State Governments while formulating such policy; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Promotion of bio-diesel

†694. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to promote the bio-diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of the bio-diesel being produced at present along with the locations thereof; and

(d) the extent of foreign dependence to be reduced with respect to diesel after the use of bio-diesel in the country?

Status of CNG outlets in the country

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

(a) the number of CNG outlets which have been opened in the country during the 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise, till date;

(b) the number of CNG outlets opened particularly in Mumbai and Amritsar, till date; and

(c) what is the time limit for opening CNG outlets in Mumbai and Amritsar?

Completion of Indo-Iran gas pipeline project

†696. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of Indo-Iran agreement regarding import of gas from Iran;

(b) by when the target for completing the work of laying gas pipeline would be achieved;

(c) whether concerned countries have given their consent to lay the said gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the present status of Indo-Iran agreement regarding import of gas?

Petroleum price in International market

697. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum price has increased tremendously in USA and other western countries recently;

(b) the extent of the adverse impact of such an increase in the price in India; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard to protect the public?

Illegal use of LPG

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

(a) whether there was shortage of supply of LPG in the Capital and other States of the country during September and October, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific reasons for shortage of LPG;
- (d) the measures taken to overcome the shortage of LPG;
- (e) whether Government are aware of the diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use and in cars;
- (f) if so, the measures taken to check this illegal use of LPG; and
- (g) by when, the supply of LPG is likely to become normal?

Joint venture projects of oil companies

699. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that various Government owned oil companies have proposed to start joint venture projects of gas and oil with huge investments with foreign agencies; and
- (b) if so, the details of companies they propose to tie-up for gas and oil production?

LNG Terminal at Kochi

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

- (a) whether the work on the proposed LNG Terminal at Vallarpadam, Kochi is in progress;
- (b) if so, the expected time of commencing its operation;
- (c) whether the supply of the LNG has since been ensured through international bidding; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Decline in LPG production

701. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a fall in production of ONGC and GAIL created a deficit of 100,000 tonnes of LPG in April-May, 2005;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the regular maintenance, shut downs of refineries created a shortage of 380,000 LPG in April-May 2005; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the huge shortage of LPG?

Uniform price for ATF

702. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the price at which the Aviation Turbine Fuel (Jet Fuel) is available in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government propose a uniform pattern of price at which ATF will be available in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revision in prices of petroleum products

†703. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount and frequency of raising the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG since January, 2005 to date by Government;
- (b) the extent of rise in the prices of essential consumer goods on account of increased truck fare due to rise in petrol and diesel prices;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the difference between the purchase price and sale price of petrol and diesel; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme to stabilize these prices, if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of ethanol as motor fuel

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

(a) whether any fresh review has been undertaken to encourage increased use of ethanol, derived from cheap indigenous sugarcane, as fuel for motor cars etc.;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Brazil is already successfully using 50 per cent blend of ethanol with petrol and many countries are switching to bio-fuels like ethanol, due to falling stocks of fossil fuel and their rising prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Availability of gas reserves in KG basin

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

(a) whether the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation has recently discovered reserves of natural gas in Krishna-Godavari basin in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas likely to be available from these reserves annually for commercial use in the country when actual production starts; and

(c) the period for which these reserves are likely to last?

Black-marketing of LPG cylinders

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

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers across the country suffered in the recent past from acute scarcity of LPG refills leading to its black-marketing in various parts;

(b) the reasons for the scarcity, including month-wise details of demand and supply since January, 2004;

(c) the action taken, if any, against LPG supply and distribution agencies against whom complaints of misappropriation or misuse have been lodged/detected;

(d) whether it is fact that scarcity in LPG supply of this magnitude re-surfaced on this occasion for the first time in the last seven years; and

(e) the steps contemplated, if any, by Government to prevent its recurrence?

Amount spent on oil requirements

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

(a) whether rising oil prices is having immense revenue implication for Government;

(b) if so, the amount spent on meeting the oil requirements of the country during the last five years; and

(c) what measures are taken to develop alternative sources of energy, including solar energy, and the amount spent on R and D in this regard during the last five years?

Allocation of kerosene to Andhra Pradesh

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

(a) whether the Central Government had been requested by Andhra Pradesh Government for additional allotment of 20,000 KL of kerosene per month to meet the requirement of the additional BPL card-holders;

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

(c) whether Government propose to release additional allotment of 20,000 KL of kerosene per month immediately, in the interest of additional BPL card-holders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Indian tourists visited South-East Asian countries

709. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians travelling to South-East Asian countries were pampering much more;

(b) if so, the number of tourists visited South-East Asian countries during the last two years;

(c) the revenue earned by Government from such visits;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the South-East Asian nations are working on packages to woo shopping-crazy Indians to their respective countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of Tourism Industry

†710. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what meaningful steps have been taken to promote the Tourism Industry;

(b) whether her Ministry has announced group tour packages to attract foreign tourists;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh will also be included in it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Tourism potential

711. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a few States have been able to tap the immense tourism potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any new schemes to attract domestic/foreign tourists;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to raise the standard of tourism to world class?

Increase in tourism in the country

†712. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Kondey Nast Traveller' and TTG Travel has put India in the category of the five premier tourist centres and on account of this there is

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

likelihood of increase in tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of tourists visited India during the last year and the number of tourists likely to visit in the current year;

(c) whether Government are making any special arrangement for providing more facilities to the tourists and their protection;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Policies to build new hotels by private sector

713. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted higher allocations to keep the tourism industry on the priority of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of such allocations made to Andhra Pradesh during the current year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have instructed all the States to initiate policies encouraging private sector to build new hotels;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard; and

(e) the action taken thereto?

Employment potential in tourism industry

714. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry have made a study of the employment potential, both,

direct and indirect, of the tourism industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Religious tourism

†715. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted regarding religious tourism potentiality in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Completion of irrigation projects

†716. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 460 irrigation projects are under construction in the country which were included for construction during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the actual number thereof alongwith the additional amount needed for completing the construction work of the said projects; and

(c) the amount allocated for each of the said projects in the Tenth Plan?

Inter connection of rivers originating from Himalayas

†717. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no scheme for implementation in the near future with regard to inter connection of the rivers originating from Himalayas and flowing through India for the purpose of providing relief to the country from floods and drought;

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

(c) the reasons for the said decision?

Completion of Irrigation Project

†718. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects included in the Tenth Five Year Plan for completion by Government alongwith amount spent on them till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of such projects under construction which are likely to be completed during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details of irrigation capacity of these projects?

Availability of water in the country

†719. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the availability of additional water in the country through rain and rivers is possible only for the very short period;

(b) if not, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) if so, the estimate made for the time period in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that requirement of water in the country can be met only by way of storing water in the above situation; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto and prospective scheme in this regard?

Privatisation of water distribution system in Delhi

720. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals on the anvil for reforming the water distribution schemes of State Governments sponsored by the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the present status of each of these projects;

(c) whether Government are aware of the reported move by the State Government of Delhi to privatise the water distribution system in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pending irrigation projects

721. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an In-depth discussion took place between Prime Minister and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad on 14th November, 2004 regarding 26 pending irrigation projects costing Rs. 46,000 crores for creating a potential of 60 lakhs acres and stabilizing 35 lakhs acres of existing Ayacut with a provision of drinking water to a population of 48 lakhs;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether in this regard, Andhra Pradesh sought the support of Central Government in the form of guarantees to raise debt finance, annuity payment, irrigation bonds and commercial loans; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard?

Improvement in quality of drinking water

722. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of sincere efforts by the Central Government, the States have not improved the quality of drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether guidelines issued by Government to States for routine analysis of samples for physico-chemicals and microbial quality are not being followed by States; and

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

Depletion of ground water level

723. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the marked depletion in ground water level in different States and vast regions, Government have taken any steps to launch a nation-wide campaign to raise ground water level, by way of conventional methods of creating and restoring tanks, ponds, lakes, wells and baolis and rain harvesting;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive plan of action has been prepared or is being worked out for the purpose, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central aid given to and sought by different States for augmenting water bodies during 2004-05 and the current year?

Water for irrigation in Gujarat

724. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that Gujarat is giving major emphasis on minor irrigation works to augment the availability of water for irrigation to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have received the proposal from the State Government of Gujarat under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(c) if so, the details and status thereof?

Revamping of water management

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

(a) whether the World Bank has in a recent report portrayed a very dismal picture of the future of water resources and water management in India;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to revamp the water management in the country so that India does not face water famine as apprehended in the World Bank report?

Project for Inland Water ways in Kerala

726. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Kerala submitted a project for the Inland Water ways in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether necessary sanctions have been accorded to the project;
- (d) the estimated cost of this project and the amount sought from the Central Government;
- (e) whether funds have been released for the project; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

Flood in Mumbai

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that one of the reasons behind the devastating flood in Mumbai is closing down of the Mithi river;
- (b) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate encroachment resulted in decline in its capacity to carry water to sea due to which hundreds of people lost their lives; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for not taking timely action to prevent said encroachments?

Linking of rivers

†728. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious plan of linking rivers of the country at the level of Central Government is still under consideration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in case of Madhya Pradesh proposal of giving priority to two projects in the first phase is under consideration;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Central Government on the plan after the one year since the Government of Madhya Pradesh accorded their approval for the implementation of these both projects;

(d) the reasons for delay in getting the work of these projects started; and

(e) the time by when the work of these two projects is likely to be started?

World Bank report on water development and management

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the World Bank, title: India's Water Economy Bracing for a Turbulant Future, highlighting *inter-alia* that the current water development and management system in India is not sustainable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the major findings/ observations contained in the report and specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for improved water management/ conservation practices?

Setting up of new river water tribunal

730. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether any request has been received from the State Government of Punjab to set up a new river water tribunal to reassess the quantum of water in the rivers which feed Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Fall in ground water level in Punjab

731. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that level of ground water has gone very low in Punjab and farmers find it difficult to get water for irrigation purposes;

(b) the details from where the Central Government have received reports in this regard; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided by Centre to the State to meet the situation?

Setting up of Central Water Management Body

732. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a new Central Water Management Body to oversee water usage and entitlement,

besides overseeing projects, treaties and disputes over water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether this proposal is in response to a recent World Bank report citing demand for water in India to far exceed supplies by 2020?

Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in Maharashtra

733. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have approved a proposal for setting up a Water Regulatory Authority for water management in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Height of Mullaperiyar Dam

734. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tamil Nadu is not being allowed to increase the storage height of water to 152 feet in stages at the Mullaperiyar Dam; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to protect the right of Tamil Nadu?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd November, 2005
Agrahayana 2, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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