

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Tuesday, the April 30, 2002/Vaisakha 10, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

#### Smuggling in IA flights

3636. SHRI KARNENDU  
BHATTACHARJEE:  
SHRIP. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has  
been drawn to the news-item which appeared  
in the Asian Age dated the 24th March, 2002  
stating that some of the domestic flights in  
the Indian Airlines are being misused to  
smuggle foreign consumer products to New  
Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective/preventive steps  
proposed to be taken in this regard?

#### Security lapse at Coimbatore airport

3637. PROF. M. SANKARA-  
LINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL  
AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a  
major security lapse at Coimbatore airport  
within a week after the Central Industrial  
Security Force took over;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any person has been held  
responsible for such a great risk; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to stop  
recurrence of such lapse at airports all over  
the country?

#### Security lapses at international airports

3638. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the  
Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has  
been drawn to the news-item captioned,  
'International airport vulnerable to security  
breach' which appeared in Hindustan Times  
dated the 2nd February, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of  
security lapses which occurred at  
international airports in the country during  
the last year;

(c) whether any action has been taken  
against the officials for the security lapses;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government in  
order to prevent such security lapses?

**Airports at Tuticorin and Salem in  
Tamil Nadu**

3639. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of long pending demand of airport terminals at Tuticorin and Salem, important commercial towns in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken to open airport terminals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Commission to travel agents**

3640. SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Air have decided to cut commission to the travel agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that tourism industry has been hit very badly after terrorist attacks in India recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not giving adequate incentives to tourists and travel related industry by offering more commission to travel agents?

**IGI Airport**

3641. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Indian Express, New Delhi edition dated the 9th April, 2002 about the New Delhi international airport;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the observations made about the state of affairs of the IGI Airport; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the situation thereof?

**Difficulties faced by passengers at  
Chennai airport**

3642. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated the 12th April, 2002 captioned 'At Chennai Airport, your long journey begins when you land';

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction to the observations made about the state of affairs at the airport and the difficulties being faced by the passengers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the situation?

**Traffic between India and UK**

3643. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a speedy recovery in the traffic between India and the UK;

(b) if so, whether the British Airways is planning to spread its wings to Bangalore and Hyderabad and has decided to expand capacity in the Indian market in a big way;

(c) if so, what are the UK based airline connections at present;

(d) to what extent it will be more during the current financial year; and

(e) whether the British Airways is also considering to hike fares?

#### **Findings of the air crash near Mainpuri**

3644. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had instituted an inquiry into the air crash near Mainpuri on September 30, 2001 involving Shri Madhavrao Scindia, then Deputy Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha and seven others including journalists and pilots;

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings and whether any person was found responsible therefor and the recommendations made in the enquiry report; and

(c) whether the recommendations made in the reports of such accidents have been implemented; if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Entry of unchecked vehicles into Hyderabad airport buildings**

3645. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of unchecked vehicles are allowed just adjacent to airport buildings in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether it is a security hazard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure security of the airport?

#### **Airport experiences**

3646. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Indian Express dated 29th March, 2002 captioned "Airport: the great Indian experience";

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken to improve the condition?

#### **Purchase of aircrafts from Airbus**

3647. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any deal of purchase of aircrafts from Airbus by Government has been challenged in any Court of India;

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

(c) whether Indian Airlines is going to purchase new aircrafts from the same company which is *sub-judice*; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Owners of Jet Airways**

† 3648. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have information regarding the owners of Jet Airways, an aviation company in the country;

(b) whether Government have failed to identify the actual owners of Jet Airways even after a lot of efforts made in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Permanent Chiefs in PSUs under the  
Ministry of Civil Aviation**

3649. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all PSUs like AI, Airports Authority, Pawan Hans and Alliance Air under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is running with temporary chiefs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are taking any step to appoint permanent chiefs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Air service from Bhopal to Jeddah**

†3650. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the State capitals from where Government have provided facility of direct air services upto Jeddah for the Haj Pilgrims at present;

(b) the names of the other State Capitals from where Government have received representations to provide the said services and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide direct air services from Bhopal to Jeddah; and

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

**Upgradation of Amritsar airport**

3651. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country upgraded to the level of International airport and provided with all basic facilities;

(b) whether any budgetary allocations have been made for the current year for Amritsar airport to provide all required facilities/amenities for air passengers;

(c) whether Government have so far cleared any proposal for setting up of new airport projects in private sector in the country;

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

(e) whether any proposals have been received from private sector, for raising the standard of Amritsar airport to the International level?

**Misuse of holiday travel facilities  
in IA/AI**

3652. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether holiday travel facilities are provided by Air India/Indian Airlines to their employees and their families;

(b) whether some senior officials of Air India and Indian Airlines have been found misusing such facilities during the last three years;

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

(d) the penal and other action taken by Government against each of these employees?

**Upgradation of Kolkata airport**

3653. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kolkata International terminal is one of the worst in the world where there is hardly any toilet that does not stink, phones and air

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

conditioning hardly works and shopping facilities are quite negligible;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, its maintenance is likely to improve?

#### **Basic amenities at airports**

3654. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some airports in the country do not have even the basic amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

#### **Compensation to the families of deceased in Charkhi-Dadri air crash**

†3655. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any announcement was made by Government to pay Rs. five lakhs each to all the passengers killed in Charkhi-Dadri air crash of 12th November, 1996;

(b) whether this compensation amount has since been paid;

(c) the name of the persons found guilty during the course of investigation;

(d) whether this compensation is not payable by these two airlines since Boeing 747 of Saudi Arab and I.C. 76 aircraft of Kazakhstan were involved in this crash;

(e) if so, whether this amount has been recovered by Government from the Government of Saudi Arab and Kazakhstan; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Promotion of foreign trade**

3656. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of steps taken by Government to promote the Indo-Russia, Indo-Pak, Indo-US, Indo-China trade?

#### **Removal of restrictions on exports**

3657. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to lift restrictions on export of certain items;

(b) if so, the details of those items; and

(c) by when Government would lift the restrictions on them?

#### **Anti-dumping measures**

†3658. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries of the World intend to get their hold on the Indian markets by assuming India as the largest customer in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that number of foreign companies are in the competition race of creating a new consumer market through their goods in the Indian markets; and

(d) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to save the Indian markets from becoming the dumping place for goods manufactured by foreign companies?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Drawbacks in Industrial policy for NER**

3659. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Industries and Commerce of the North-Eastern Region (FINER) has in a memorandum recently called upon Government to rectify the drawbacks in the special Industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the drawbacks pointed out in the policy; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

### **Performance of STC**

3660. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India manages to generate profits;

(b) if so, the details of its sources of profit and to what extent;

(c) whether the STC still tries to contain its expenditure on entertainment, public relations, foreign travels of top executives etc. commensurate with its steeply declining income; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### **Import of edible oil**

3661. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to import edible oil from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding this expected quantity of palmolien to be imported; and

(d) the details of countries from where edible oil is imported?

### **Revenue from meat export**

3662. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue from meat export is increasing in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study on the impact of the growth of meat export on the population of cattle in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Pilferage of explosives**

3663. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that pilferage of explosive is taking place in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that explosive are finding way to extremists and quarry owners illegally;

(c) the number of major instances of explosive pilferage which has come to the notice during the last three years in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of action taken for curbing their pilferage?

**Production of rubber**

3664. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total production and consumption of rubber in India, State-wise;
- (b) the total volume of export and import of rubber; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government for plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas?

**Focus-Africa Programme**

3665. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced 'Focus-Africa Programme';
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the expected growth in India's trade with Africa?

**Restriction on import of second hand machines**

3666. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of second hand jute machines for jute mills imported during the last six months;
- (b) the number of those which are imported from China;
- (c) whether there is any provisions in the present EXIM policy to restrict imports of second hand machines;
- (d) in what manner the age of the second hand machines is evaluated; and
- (e) what is the number of indigenous jute machine manufacturing units in the country?

**Removal of sectoral caps**

3667. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to make a greater dent on attracting foreign investments;
- (b) if so, whether Government are toying with the idea of removing sectoral caps in all areas except the one in place on security or environment consideration;
- (c) whether the high powered Steering Committee on foreign investments chaired by Planning Commission Member has made strong recommendation to this effect;
- (d) if so, whether Government have considered the issue; and
- (e) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**New Board for chillies**

3668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Board for chillies;
- (b) if so, by when it is likely to be set up; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Natural Rubber as agricultural commodity**

3669. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would consider to negotiate with the WTO for reclassifying

Natural Rubber as an agricultural commodity;

(b) whether Government would consider to impose safeguard duty on Natural Rubber at appropriate rate;

(c) whether Government would consider to enhance the present rate of export subsidy for Natural Rubber, if so, to what extent;

(d) whether Government would consider to restrict the import of natural Rubber under advance license or open general license; and

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

#### **Price stabilization corporation for commercial crops**

3670. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tobacco and other commercial crops are subjected to fluctuations in the market price causing loss to the growers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up price stabilization Corporation for certain commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **FDI in cigarette industry**

3671. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit foreign investment in cigarette industry to help Tobacco Farmers;

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

(c) the measures taken to draft a comprehensive policy on Tobacco cultivation at an early date?

#### **Regulatory framework for SEZs**

3672. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has suggested the need to enact comprehensive legislation for providing necessary regulatory framework with regard to the Special Economic Zones (SEZ);

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

(c) what is Government's reaction to the suggestion; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to be taken to finetune the SEZ Scheme so that these zones may act as facilitator of growth?

#### **FDI proposals for Punjab**

3673. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for Foreign Direct Investments in Punjab have been submitted during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and Government's decisions taken thereon; and

(c) the details of the FDIs made in the State during the last two years, till date?



### Trade Gap

3674. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total turnover of exports and imports this year;

(b) the total value of the trade gap of imports over exports;

(c) the reasons for such a gap;

(d) what steps are being proposed to be taken to control this trade gap during the next financial year; and

(e) which areas of this trade needs more attention and the action being taken in that direction?

### Argentina under watch category

3675. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have kept Argentina under watch category due to its economic failure;

(b) if so, whether the current economic crisis in Argentina has affected the bilateral trade relations;

(c) whether banks have been issued any directions for issuing letter of credit to traders for export to that country; and

(d) if so, what other steps are being considered by Government in this regard?

### Shortcomings in New EXIM Policy

† 3676. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is impossible to achieve the set export target due to several types of shortcomings in Government's New EXIM policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the main categories of producers in the countries have asked Government to be cautious of the losses which are going to occur to the country due to these shortcomings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Research on tobacco seeds

3677. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Tobacco Board has not done substantial propaganda work in other countries on quality of Indian tobacco;

(b) if so, what steps tobacco Board will take in this regard;

(c) whether Tobacco Board will take up research on providing quality seeds and better cultivation methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

### Anti-dumping investigations by China on pathalic anhydride

3678. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has initiated anti-dumping investigations against exports of pathalic anhydride from India;

(b) if so, whether this investigation covers such exports from South Korea and Japan; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether India is likely to evolve a joint strategy with Korea and Japan to counter the dumping charges?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

#### **Slapping of import tariff by US on Indian Steel**

3679. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US has slapped high import tariff on steel, affecting India's Steel exports;

(b) whether this move by US also denies access to steel exporters from Japan, South Korea and the European Union;

(c) if so, whether India apprehends large-scale dumping of steel out of floating consignments from Russia, Japan and the European Union into its soil; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures contemplated in this regard?

#### **Transport assistance to agricultural exports**

3680. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved 'Farm to Port' transport assistance for export of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Decline in export of rice**

3681. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rice export is declining over the years;

#### **Import of melting steel scrap**

3682. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in The Hindu, Delhi, dated 3rd April, 2002 under the caption "Unexploded rocket arrives in melting steel scrap";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future while importing steel scrap from foreign countries?

#### **Anti-dumping duty on Polyester Staple Fibre**

3683. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has opposed the decision of the Central Government to impose anti-dumping duty on Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) being imported from South Asian countries;

(b) whether duty would benefit only two big business houses and would adversely hit the textile units in Rajasthan; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in regard to Rajasthan Government's request?

#### **Appointment of Chief Controller of Explosives**

3684. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no regular Chief Controller of Explosives has been appointed for the last 15 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) in what manner Government would justify the absence of a regular CCE particularly at a time when explosive laws need to be enforced strictly; and

(d) by when a regular CCE is going to be appointed?

smuggling is increasing steeply in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that smuggling of old idols in the country is increasing rapidly;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete step to check the same; and

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

#### **Government influence on functioning of RBI**

3685. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:  
SHRI BHAGATRAM  
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RBI functioning influenced by Centre, says economist" which appeared in the Asian Age, New Delhi on the 27th March, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been criticized by the economist for day-to-day interference of Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to ensure that the RBI functioning is not influenced by Central Government?

#### **Smuggling of old idols**

†3686. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that business of

#### **Tribunals for economic offences**

3687. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering for adequate laws and specialised tribunals to effectively deal with economic offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economic offences are not seriously considered which is posing threat to the economy of the country;

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to deal with economic offences in the country; and

(e) whether any legislation is proposed to be introduced in this regard, if so, the details thereof and by when?

#### **New saving schemes for private sector employees**

3688. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring new saving schemes for private sector employees, so as to bring them at par with Government and Public Sector staff; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Cooperative banks under RBI**

3689. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring cooperative banks under the control of Reserve Bank of India keeping in view a number of scams and rackets in the working of cooperative banks;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard;

(c) if so, whether they have agreed to this; and

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

### **Cooperative banks in Gujarat**

3690. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many cooperative banks in Gujarat have failed to return investors deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to close or revive such banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that in many cases the Insurance Companies have paid money to the cooperative banks;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the said period along with the number of investors covered; and

(g) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to safeguard the interest of small investors?

### **Impact of New Economic Policy**

3691. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening after the implementation of new economic policy in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard by bringing about wide changes in the implementation of this economic policy for minimising the gap between rich and the poor?

### **Foreclosure of MIPs by UTI**

3692. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Unit Trust of India to foreclose several Monthly Income Plans (MIPs);

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

(c) whether the depositors would be offered any alternative investment scheme *in lieu of* the MIPs currently in force; and

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

### **Project finances of financial institutions**

3693. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total sanction for project finances of ICICI, IDBI and IFCI in the first nine months of the current Fiscal year 2001-2002;

(b) the details of its comparison with the previous year for each of the financial institution percentage-wise;

(c) the disbursement as a percentage of total sanction during the period; and

(d) whether there is any reduction in sanction to infrastructure and retail sector?

#### **Janashree Bima Yojana**

3694. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2450 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th April, 2002 and state;

(a) the number of persons who have been insured under the Janashree Bima Yojana as on 31st March, 2001; and

(b) the total amount earmarked and spent under the scheme?

#### **New customs examination norms**

3695. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enforce new Customs examination norms to reduce clearance time and transaction costs for the exporter community;

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

(c) by when new norms will come into force?

#### **Branches of public sector banks in foreign countries**

3696. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for public sector banks having very few branches in foreign countries whereas the foreign banks are mushrooming their branches here on a large scale;

(b) whether Government propose to give free hand to Indian Banks to open their branches abroad so as to get them the benefits of liberalisation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Man Power norms for RRBs**

3697. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Man Power norms issued to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have not taken the criteria of branch-wise business or Head Office-wise workload;

(b) what is the number of staff going to be surplus as a result of these norms;

(c) the increase in the business/profits during the last ten years, after recruitments were stopped in RRBs; and

(d) whether Government are justified in recruiting the so-called excess staff upto 1990-91 or whether there is any change in policy of Government?

#### **Customs duty on non-cooking coal**

3698. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of the power plants which use imported coal were affected due to hike in customs duty on non-cooking coal which led to a direct rise in the price of electricity; and

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

#### **Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms**

3699. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms to accelerate second

generation reforms and boost economy has been set up;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and specific purpose of the Committee;

(c) the concrete suggestions or guidelines given by the Committee on various aspects of economic reforms;

(d) the exact results yielded by these suggestions so given by the Committee; and

(e) what is the time-frame for the said Committee to submit its final report?

#### **Additional posts of Chief Commissioners in IT Department**

3700. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax have been created;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 292 posts of Commissioners have also been created;

(c) if so, what would be the additional burden on exchaquer per year due to such creation;

(d) the compelling circumstances necessitating the creation of so large number of additional posts in the Income Tax Department at one time; and

(e) whether this expansion is in keeping with the downsizing policy of Government?

#### **MODVAT to DTA manufacturers in NE States**

3701. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed MODVAT facilities to DTA manufacturers on goods produced in the North East which are having excise concessions;

(b) whether it is a fact that goods manufactured in the North East are eligible for exports and consequently for getting export benefits including excise duty refund and duty drawback at par with other States;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for discrimination against the North East; and

(d) whether Government would take corrective steps to make them at par with industries of other States to save the industries of North East from complete disaster?

#### **VRS in Andhra Bank**

3702. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in each cadre in Andhra Pradesh and State Bank of Hyderabad who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and number of employees relieved in each Bank under the Scheme;

(b) whether VRS has increased the workload of remaining employees of these Banks manifold leading to their exploitation; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

#### **Unclaimed money in Nationalised Banks**

3703. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large sum of unclaimed money is lying with nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the total sum of such money lying with these banks; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to utilize this money in a constructive way?

**Evasion of tax by private hospitals**

3704. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 65 per cent of the Non-banking finance companies and a large number of private hospitals/nursing homes still evade the tax net;

(b) if so, whether more than 12,000 such NBFCs are still to be assessed for tax;

(c) whether the short levy of tax on these uncovered segments amounts to more than rupees 1000 crore; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to identify the prospective assesses?

**Excise duty on palm oil and sugar**

3705. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long time demand to increase excise duty on palm oil and sugar to protect the interest of farmers; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

**Relocation of Development officers in Insurance companies**

3706. SHRI C.P. THIRU-NAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the process of relocation/retrenchment of Development Officers in Insurance Companies keeping in view liberalised insurance scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the criteria for appointment of agents and brokers are being changed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether old agents are being given any preference at the time of selection?

**High Court orders on VRS in Punjab**

†3707. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana have declared the implementation of VRS in Nationalised Banks illegal and passed the orders to reinstate the officials retired under VRS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would reconsider its retirement schemes under VRS in other sectors also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the methods adopted for the same?

**Committee for detecting bank frauds**

3708. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has set up any committee to detect bank frauds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its reports; and

(d) if so, the details of the main recommendations of the Committee?

**Grants in aid to States**

3709. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments have demanded scrapping of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

all Central schemes and transfer of funds thus saved to States to enable them to formulate their own schemes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been gradual decline in the quantum of grants-in-aid to the States and corresponding increase in the loans sanctioned to them;

(c) if so, the details of grants-in-aid and loans to the States during the last two years;

(d) the reasons for this change; and

(e) what is Government's reaction to the demands of State Governments for more and more developmental funds?

#### **Capital requirement for selling medical insurance**

3710. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance is examining to reduce the minimum Rs. 100 crore capital requirement for parties keen on selling medical insurance;

(b) if so, whether a task force which was constituted to increase the coverage of health insurance in the country is expected to decide soon on the issue;

(c) whether this task force has submitted its recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when they are likely to be considered?

#### **Moderate growth of economy**

3711. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the economy witnesses a moderate growth, consumer durables, cellular services, housing, finance and software power have shown recovery;

(b) if so, whether any survey in this regard was conducted recently;

(c) if so, the sectors which have shown a moderate growth;

(d) whether 30 sectors recorded negative growth during the April-March, 2001-2002 period; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to further improve the economic growth in the country?

#### **Decline in credit deposit ratio of RRBs**

3712. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the name of profitability the credit-deposit ratio of RRBs is coming down and they are moving away from the objectives of RRB Act;

(b) if so, the total amount of investments made by RRBs outside their service area;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise these funds for rural infrastructure finance on the lines of NABARD, HUDCO, World Bank etc.; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction to arrest reverse flow of funds from rural areas to urban areas?

#### **Expenditure Reforms Commission**

3713. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended 33



years of service limit or 58 years of age for superannuation whichever is earlier for the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the Committee;

(c) if not, the reasons there or;

(d) whether it is a fact that increase of age limit from 58 to 60 years has imposed financial burden which is avoidable; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the bloated work force of Central and state Government Departments/agencies?

#### **Probe in funds transfer to GTBL**

3714. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI is presently probing the huge amount of fund transfer by five Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) to Global Trust Bank Ltd. (GTBL);

(b) if so, the name of the OCBs;

(c) the amount of such fund transferred Rs. (Crores) ; and

(d) whether the OCBs are connected to market operator Ketan Parekh?

#### **Schemes for financial assistance to Kerala**

3715. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes submitted by Kerala Government for financial assistance during each of the last three years;

(b) the action/decision taken by Government on these schemes; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released for the same during the last three years, year-wise?

#### **Smuggling operations in the country**

†3716. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the foreign smugglers are trying to make India a 'transit country';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stringent steps proposed to be taken by Government to prevent such activities?

#### **Fake currency racket**

3717. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem, captioned "IT sleuths unearth currency racket" which appeared in The Hindustan Times, dated the 23rd March, 2002;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to control the problem of currency smuggling racket as highlighted in the newsitem?

#### **Promotion of Additional Commissioners**

3718. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 49 Officers have been promoted as Commissioners vide order of 28th January, 2002 and designated as officers on special duty without assigning any work;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the circumstances which prompted to issue such an order to pay heavy salaries without getting any work done by these 49 officers;

(c) whether the 49 posts of Additional Commissioner thus rendered vacant have been filled; and

(d) if not, the officials discharging the duties of the vacant portions especially in the months of January/February when there is rush of work in Income-Tax Department?

#### **Assesseees under CII**

3719. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of Assesseees with each Commissionerate Income Tax (CIT);

(b) whether the said numbers of assessees allotted to each CIT also include such fictitious assessees also, which have just filed form 2C (1/6 criterion); and

(c) if so, the number of state cases which do not bring any revenue to the exchequer?

#### **Loan to SCs/STS for self employment**

3720. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC and ST unemployed graduates are given loan by banks for their self-employment; and

(b) if so, the number of SC/ST unemployed youths given bank loan for self-employment during the last three years, State-wise and Bank-wise?

#### **Recapitalisation of regional rural banks**

3721. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to recapitalise 36 Regional Rural banks during the 10th Plan by utilising Rs. 550 crore; and

(b) if so, details of the 36 RRBs selected for the recapitalisation process along with the proposed increase in share capital?

#### **Drug trafficking in Delhi and Haryana**

†3722. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and Haryana have become the major centre for drug trafficking after the fall of Taliban Regime in Afghanistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drugs worth crores of rupees have been seized in Delhi and Haryana recently;

(c) if so, the number of criminals apprehended alongwith the number of criminals punished; and

(d) what are the details of stringent steps Government have taken to curb the menace of drugs completely?

#### **Fiscal situation**

3723. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal situation of Government has deteriorated in the 1990s, especially during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the targets set during the Ninth five Year Plan and achievement made under

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

different financial indicators, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the situation?

#### **Financial aid to states**

3724. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by Government to the states for developmental work during the last three years;

(b) whether the aforesaid amount has been utilised by each State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Co-operative banks in rural areas**

3725. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of co-operative banks set up so far in the country as on 31st March, 2002, state-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more co-operative banks in the rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the location wise/State-wise/District-wise details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Expenditure by Government Departments**

3726. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total achievement of each Ministry/Departments of Government of India in

reducing the costs and minimising the expenses;

(b) the steps being undertaken to minimise wasteful expenditure in each department;

(c) whether Government are reducing the budgetary sanctions based on the assessments of their requirements; and

(d) the main areas identified for reducing the costs?

#### **Liberalising of housing loans**

3727. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing sector has got a boost after many financial institutions have liberalised housing loans in the country;

(b) if so, whether all the banks and other financial institutions have decided to provide loans upto Rs. 1 crore with negligible processing charges;

(c) if so, to what extent the rates have been reduced;

(d) whether this reduction of rates has given a boost to the housing development in the country; and

(e) if so, to what extent the liberalisation norms has helped the poor and the business people for the developing construction and other housing facilities?

#### **Long term fiscal and taxation policy**

3728. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been advised by RBI Governor to come up with a long-term fiscal and taxation policy against the prevailing system of frequent changes;

(b) whether rational taxation system and tax administration by simplifying the rules are also some of his suggestions;

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

(d) the steps being taken in this direction?

**Clearance of stock market defaulters by Appellate Tribunal**

3729. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain entities which had been found guilty of rigging of share prices in the stock market by SEBI have been subsequently cleared by the Appellate Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tribunal striking of full SEBI orders consisted of one Member benches;

(d) if so, whether this is commensurate with the principle of a sound quasi-judicial principle; and

(e) if not, whether there is a case for a change in the existing law?

**Aid from multilateral agencies**

3730. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is getting billions of dollars of aid from the multilateral agencies every year;

(b) if so, the amount taken from the various agencies, agency and project-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of the aid is lying unspent;

(d) if so, the details of the unspent aid, project-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to put the aid to effective use?

**Maturity of monthly income schemes of UTI**

3731. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of monthly income schemes of the Unit Trust of India will mature during the course of this year beginning from 30th April, 2002;

(b) whether UTI has adequate funds to pay back the investors of these schemes on redemption; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to arrange necessary funds for the purpose?

**Losses in UTI Schemes**

3732. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs. 2,632 crore hole in Six UTI Schemes" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the resource crunch does not stand in the way of the depositors getting back their invested amount together with the committed returns even if the schemes fail to perform?

**Target for Direct Tax collection during 2002-2003**

3733. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 36 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 2002 and to state:

(a) whether the target of tax collection has been fixed for the year 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to achieve the target?

**Fraud in Oriental Bank of Commerce, Panipat**

3734. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fraud was reported in Oriental Bank of Commerce, Panipat regarding their letter of credit No. 253/99 for USD \$ 285000/-;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bank failed to handle documents properly and acted negligently by not pointing out the major discrepancies in the L/C and also misrepresented the facts before appropriate authority;

(c) if so, the reasons for making haste payment on forged documents and putting a huge loss to Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government against bank officials for their negligent act?

**Acquisition of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd.**

3735. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Corporation Bank Officer's Organisation affiliated to AIBOC has submitted a memoranda to C.M.D. Corporation Bank regarding acquisition of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd. by a private bidder whose account is at present NPA of Rs. 11 crore with Corporation Bank;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any action to prohibit NPA borrower to bid for public sector banks without clearing its NPA dues; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Allocation of special fund for Tamil Nadu**

3736. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special fund is allocated to Tamil Nadu due to the financial crisis that exists in the State;

(b) if not, whether it would be feasible to allocate the entire amount collected through small savings from the State; and

(c) the details of small savings from Tamil Nadu?

**Control over government expenditure**

3737. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to contain expenditure the Ministry of Finance has decided to ask all Government departments and Ministries to submit quarterly expenditure reports detailing all expenses and pointing out deviations from planned expenditure schedule;

(b) what other steps have been taken to lessen Government expenditure; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

**Single duty drawback scheme**

† 3738. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering a proposal regarding Single Duty Drawback scheme for the exporters;

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† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether government have taken any step in this direction so far; and

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

#### **Prices of LNG**

3739. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of LNG charged from European importers is a clear Dollar 1 per million British thermal units lower than that paid by Asian buyers;

(b) if so, whether while European companies are paying Dollar 1.7 per million BTU, Asian firms have to fork out Dollar 2.7 million per million BTU;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering any move in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken so far?

#### **Production costs of petroleum products**

†3740. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the production cost of Petrol, Diesel, Kerosene, Naphtha and LPG in the country;

(b) if so, what has been the average production cost of above items during the financial year 2001-2002 on the basis of indigenously produced crude oil; and

(c) whether Government have also taken a decision to keep prices of petroleum products in the country under control?

#### **Adulteration of fuel in capital**

3741. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in The Hindu dated the 14th March, 2002 captioned "Adulteration of fuel rampant in the capital";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

#### **Pending resitement cases in Gujarat**

3742. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol and diesel pumps pending for resitement in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have issued directions to various companies for early disposal of cases of resitement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Weak Testing methods for adulteration in fuel**

3743. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adulteration of fuel in Delhi goes undetected due to weak testing methods;

(b) whether it is also a fact that adulteration of fuel in Delhi goes undetected due to weak testing methods;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for such variations in testing methods;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Tax levels an production of Petroleum products**

†3744. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax is imposed by Government at different levels of production of crude in the country and distribution of its different products to the consumers;

(b) if so, the levels and the rates at which the said taxation exists in the country at present; and

(c) the extent to which the amount generated from total taxation is more or less than the cost of production of crude oil?

### **Alternative fuel for CNG**

3745. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:  
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

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

(a) whether Government have gone through the judgemtn of the Supreme Court of India imposing hefty penalties on bus operators who are now complying of providing CNG kits in the vehicles in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

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

(c) whether Government are considering an alternative way of CNG and if so, the details thereof?

### **Taxes on petroleum products**

†3746. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of Government taxes are required to be reduced with a view to check the price rise of petroleum products especially tose of petrol and diesel;

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

(c) whether any proposal with regard to reduce the rates of Government taxes has been worked out by Government; if so, the details thereof?

### **Collection of cess on crude production**

†3747. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI RAJI RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 1800/- per tonne are charged as cess on the crude oil produced in the country;

(b) if so, whetehr it is also a fact that the said cess is not being charged from some producers;

(c) if so, the names of such producers and the reasons for not charging cess from them; and

(d) the extent of annual loss likely to occur due to it?

### **Demand and supply of CNG in Delhi**

†3748. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is fact that requirement of CNG in Delhi for buses is 13 lakhs kg. per day whereas its supply is only 5.80 lakhs kg. per day;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) whether Government have decided to increase the availability of CNG to meet the requirement of transportation in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of such quantity to be made available and by when the supply will start?

#### **Sale price of crude oil**

†3749. 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 sale price of crude oil produced in the country has been determined at par with the prevailing price of the crude oil in the international market;

(b) if so, the respective price of existing crude oil being paid by oil refineries; and

(c) the reasons for keeping the sale price of crude oil produced in the country at par with the price of international market?

#### **Production of CNG**

†3750. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether Government have estimated the annual quantity of CNG production in the country;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of production and the quantity of CNG out of the above for use in different areas;

(c) whether it is also a fact that CNG is also being provided to many industrial institutions for their use; and

(d) if so, the names of those industrial institutions alongwith the respective quantity of CNG being provided to them and since when it is being provided?

#### **Self sufficiency in oil and gas**

3751. DR. A.K. PATEL:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

(a) whether the targets fixed to achieve self sufficiency in the production of oil and gas during the Ninth Plan period has since been achieved;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to attain self sufficiency in the production of oil and gas?

#### **Production and Marketing of CBM**

3752. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAV-UKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have undertaken a survey on Coal Bed Methane proposals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared plan for production and marketing of CBM in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Transportation of LPG**

†3753. DR. ABRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(a) the average kilometers being allotted to every tanker for LPG transportation in Northern India and the average allotted to the tankers running in Sawai Madhopur plant;

(b) whether more kilometers are allotted to the lower-rating transporters; if so, what are the rules and whether tankers running in Sawai Madhopur are also rated low; and

(c) the persons responsible for the loss to IOC if higher-rating tankers are run more and lower rating tankers of Sawai Madhopur are run less in terms of kilometers?

#### **Bottling plants in Rajasthan**

† 3754. DR. ABRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the Sawai Madhopur Bottling Plant alongwith the amount spent on its installation;

(b) whether it is being fully utilised, if not, the percentage of capacity being utilised and the steps being taken by Government for its complete utilisation;

(c) the names of the places in Rajasthan where new bottling Plants were started during the last three years;

(d) whether due to the security reasons the distance from Pak border was kept in view while selecting these places; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Expansion of Panipat Refinery**

3755. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panipat refinery expansion work was to take place in the year 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether it is also a fact that IOC had entered into an agreement with the Japanese company Marubeni for setting upto 350 MW power generation plant alongside the refinery; if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when this project will start functioning and produce the desired power?

#### **Leasing of oil fields to private companies**

3756. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have leased discovered oil fields to private companies for development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantum of money ONGC would have earned from these discovered wells till date, if these well have been given to for development?

#### **Assessment of crude oil in Gujarat**

3757. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date when the last expert study/assessment of crude oil and reserves was carried out in Gujarat;

(b) the total number of exploitory and development well recommended to be drilled by such experts; and

(c) the actual number of such well drilled?

#### **Allocation of kerosene to States**

3758. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the quantum of kerosene allotted alongwith the details of subsidies to each State in the country during the last three years, Year-wise;

(b) whether Government have decided to stop the subsidy on Kerosene; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Shortage of Kerosene in Rajasthan**

3759. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of Kerosene in the rural areas of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details steps being taken by Government in this regard?

#### **Oil refinery at Bin MP**

3760. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up an oil refinery as joint venture in collaboration with Oman at Bina in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time it would take to start production; and

(d) what is the total estimated cost of the project?

#### **Joint operation of Panna Mukta Oil field**

3761. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms of the agreement reached between ONGC, Reliance and British Gas for jointly operating Panna, Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields; and

(b) the estimated oil and gas potential of these oil fields?

#### **Dealerships under operation Vijay Scheme**

3762. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been given dealership of petrol pumps and LPG under the Operation Vijay Scheme launched by Government to provide income to the families of soldiers who died in the Kargil War;

(b) the number of cases which have been commissioned upto the 31st March, 2002; and

(c) by when the remaining cases are likely to be commissioned?

#### **Crude reserves in Andhra Pradesh**

3763. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has conducted 3D Seismic survey for Crude oil in new and producing areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Crude reserves have been found in the State during the surveys;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken after the surveys in the State?

**Vizag Refinery**

3764. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vizag Refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in Andhra Pradesh is fire-prone;

(b) if so, the details of the fire incidents in the refinery during the last three years, year wise and losses suffered therein; and

(c) the details fool proof safety measures introduced in the refinery?

**Weight of LPG Cylinder**

3765. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weight of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinder has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of LPG dealers in Tamil Nadu?

**Delay in Completion of Bhatinda Refinery**

3766. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Guru Gobind Singh Oil Refinery at Bhatinda in Punjab is likely to suffer in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on the Refinery so far?

**Janpath Hotel on tourist House**

3767. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to convert Janpath Hotel in Delhi into a tourist House;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss in revenue to be incurred to Government due to this decision; and

(d) the concrete steps Government are going to take to provide necessary facilities/information to the tourists at the proposed tourist House?

(e) the amount that will be saved by Ministry every year by closing the offices located abroad?

**Cruise tourism**

3769. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to tap the potential of 'Cruise Tourism', which of late is emerging as an important dimension in foreign tourist arrivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the infrastructure facilities that are proposed to be provided at major ports for attaching cruise liners?

**Construction of Yatri Niwas**

3770. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of Central Financial Assistance provided to various State Governments and Union Territories for construction of Yatri Niwas in different parts of the country during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to utilize the allocated/sanctioned funds for construction of Yatri Niwas in the country?

#### **Setting up of Deemed Culture University**

†3771. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Deemed Culture University;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) by when this University is likely to be established and the location of its headquarters?

#### **Funds allocated for renovation of ancient monuments**

3772. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a major renovation programme at 81 tourist destinations including ancient monuments and archaeological sites in the country;

(b) if so, the total cost of expenditure to be involved in this project;

(c) what are the States where these will be implemented;

(d) whether State Governments have agreed to provide all help and assistance in implementing this projects; and

(e) if so, whether government have also provided sufficient funds to the States to develop tourist sites?

#### **Losses due to irregularities in NGMA**

†3773. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a loss of crores of rupees due to the irregularities in the Publication of National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the value of the Publication printed by NGMA during the last three years alongwith the amount of losses suffered thereon?

#### **Offices of the Ministry abroad**

†3774. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of Ministry of Tourism and Culture located abroad country-wise;

(b) the number of employees working in each of these offices and the amount spent on these offices every year;

(c) the main functions of the offices of the Ministry of Tourism located abroad;

(d) the number of tourists who visited India during the last three years; and

(e) the foreign exchange earned by tourism industry of India from these tourists?

#### **Fake Tourist guides**

3775. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to discourage and punish fake guides who cheat foreign tourists and spoil the name of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of cases registered against fake guides during the last three years?

#### **Celebration of Birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir**

3776. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted any committee to celebrate the 2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir;

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

(c) the amount sanctioned to celebrate the same; and

(d) the details of the expenditure incurred till date in this regard?

#### **Funds utilized by Maharashtra Government for various projects**

3777. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount given as grant by government to Maharashtra during the last two years for various projects;

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has timely submitted expenditure account as well as status of the projects to the centre; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir**

3778. SHRI MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lift chair is being proposed from Darmi Dhar Fort to Larri-Madan and from Lari-Madan to Chhechhehra-Hills around Rajouri town;

(b) whether Government would ask for such a proposal for approval from Government of Jammu and Kashmir for extending centrally sponsored scheme to the State for tourism development; and

(c) if so, by when?

#### **Development of Tourism in Rajasthan**

3779. SHRI SATOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals sent by Government of Rajasthan for development of tourism and the total amount sought for this purpose from the Central Government; and

(b) the total amount to be provided by the Central Government in order to implement these proposals and by when?

#### **Depiction of places of cultural revolution**

3780. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to boost tourism depicting the places of "Cultural Revolution" throughout the country;

(b) if so, the places so identified for this programme; and

(c) the amount earmarked by Government for this purposed?

#### **Handing over of control to BBMB**

3781. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to provisions of Punjab Reorganisation Act, the Control of Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur Head works vested with Punjab was to be transferred to Bakra Beas Management Board, but it still remains with the Government of Punjab;

(b) if so, the steps taken to hand over the control to BBMB, and the reasons for failure to do so; and

(c) the Rajasthan Government's plea in this regard?

#### **Decline in Ground water level**

3782. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention drawn has been the news item captioned "Scary summer: Taps dry little underground" which appear in the Times of India dated the 21st March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Governments reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problem of continuously depleting table to underground water level as highlighted in the report?

#### **Pending Irrigation project in Tamil Nadu**

3783. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pending irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu which needs central assistance;

(b) the reasons for the delay in implementation of these projects;

(c) the details of the steps taken for speedy implementation of these projects; and

(d) whether any enhancement in the cost of the projects has been made and if so, the details thereof?

#### **Release of funds for water conservation projects**

3784. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated Rs. 216 crores water conservation project to be implemented in 482 water stress mandals in 22 districts extending Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether these projects would be undertaken with the financial assistance of Rs. 151.20 crores from NABARD;

(c) if so, the total area to be covered;

(d) whether Government have been urged to provide the remaining funds for implementing these projects; and

(e) if so, by when this project of water conservation is likely to be completed in Andhra Pradesh?

#### **Pending Irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh**

3785. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of irrigation projects which are pending with the Government as on 31st March, 2001 for clearance, State-wise;

(b) the number of projects which were given clearance from techno-economic viability angle, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects which are still awaiting clearance from other departments/agencies;

(d) the number of projects of Andhra Pradesh which have been given clearance and the number of projects which are still pending, alongwith details thereof;

(e) whether Government are extending financial assistance to the States for expeditions completion of ongoing projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

#### **Funds utilized by Maharashtra Government for various projects**

3786. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount given as grant by the Central Government to Maharashtra Government during the last two years for various projects; and

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has timely submitted expenditure account to the Centre?

#### **Funds allocated for irrigation projects**

3787. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared certain proposal to provide 100 percent loan for irrigation projects in the States;

(b) if so, the amount of loan provided to the States for this purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the places in these States where irrigation projects are likely to be set-up and criteria adopted by these State Governments in choosing such places?

#### **Projects of Rain Water harvesting**

3788. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether second water convention was recently held in the Capital depicting attainment of water harvesting plan in the desert State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether rain water harvesting has enabled the villagers to draw water from handpumps in some districts and enabling them to grow two cash crops a year;

(c) whether such plans at Chitrakoot (Madhya Pradesh) have also given good results; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to propagate such ventures to other needy areas throughout the country so that the villagers could reap the benefits of water harvesting

#### **Conference of National Water Resources Council**

3789. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council held a Conference presided by the Prime Minister in the first week of April, 2002;

(b) if so, the main features of the conference;

(c) whether any consensus has been arrived at the conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Ground water level in A.P.**

3790. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA  
RAO: Will the Minister of WATER  
RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe water crisis  
in Godavari and Telangana regions of

Andhra Pradesh on account of scanty  
rainfall; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to save  
the people from acute water shortage in view  
of rapid depletion of ground water in the  
affected districts?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 24th April, 2002*  

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*Vaisakha 4, 1924 (Saka)*

R.C. TRIPATHI,  
*Secretary-General.*



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