

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, the July 30, 2002/Sravana 8, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

New hand trolleys at Sardar Patel Airport, Gujarat

† 1339. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether no action has so far been taken for purchasing hand trolleys at Sardar Patel International Airport in Gujarat; and

(b) by when the hand trolleys will be replaced in view of their bad condition?

Security at IGI airport

† 1340. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared on 22nd June, 2002 in Rashtriya Sahara captioned "I.G.I. se udan bharne wale wiman aasani se atankvadion ka nishana ban sakte hain";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure security at all the airports of the country?

IA flights on New Delhi-Jabalpur- Gwalior route

† 1341. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines have stopped its flights IC-437 and IC-438 which were operated on New Delhi-Jabalpur route via Gwalior;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce these flights once again; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Appointment of CMD in AI

1342. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India continues to be without a permanent CMD in spite of the urgent need to boost the management of the airlines, which is incurring losses; and

(b) if so, what are Government's plans to appoint a CMD to this airline?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development projects in Assam

1343. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects taken up for development of Civil Aviation in Assam during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the projects completed/under progress and likely to be completed during the above period;

(c) the total amount of funds sanctioned/released and utilized for each project so far; and

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

Privatisation of ground handling of I.A., A.I. and Alliance Air

1344. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for privatisation of ground handling operations of Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Air at various airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated cost being incurred by these Airlines on ground handling of these airlines per month; and

(d) whether the privatisation of ground handling of these Airlines at various airports will improve the quality of service, and if so, by when the proposal to privatise ground handling system will be finalised?

Agreement with foreign partners

1345. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has brought to the notice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation certain provisions of the Airports Authority of India Act, which are coming in the way of finalizing the agreement with foreign partners for Bangalore International Airport; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

Air services on Delhi-Raipur-Jabalpur route

†1346. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has formulated any scheme to survey the area for starting air services in future to Bilaspur, the important city of Chhattisgarh and Jagdalpur, the tribal dominated area of district Bastar;

(b) whether Indian Airlines is planning to start regular air service from Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh; and

(c) the reasons for closing down the air services all of a sudden from Delhi to Raipur via Jabalpur?

Upgradation of aircrafts in I.A.

1347. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a requirement of upgrading the current fleet of aircrafts under the Indian Airlines;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when the aircrafts were upgraded last time?

New legislation on airport security

1348. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that provisions made in the Civil Aviation Act to check security lapses at various airports through out the country are not effective;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring any other legislation on airport security; and

(c) if so, by when?

Planes taken on rent

1349. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation had taken steps to increase the number of planes used by the AI and IA during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

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

(c) whether the Ministry has taken the route of taking planes on rent; and

(d) if so, the number of planes taken on rent during the last three years?

Helicopter service for North-Eastern Region

1350. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the helicopter services connecting major North-Eastern cities for VIPs and as well as general public;

(b) if not, whether these services would provided as per schedule or request; and

(c) if so, by when?

Delay in leasing out of airports

1351. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to lease out major airports could not take off due to the delay in amending the Airports Authority of India's Act;

(b) if so, whether Government have been forced to look for alternate avenues to bring about private participation to improve infrastructure at the four major airports;

(c) if so, what alternative avenues are being considered by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(d) by when final decision to lease out airports would be considered?

Losses incurred by AAI due to advertising

1352. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation is faced with an advertising rights scam which caused loss of Rs. 21.6 crore to the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, whether CBI was investigating the case in which AAI officials and a Delhi based-company are allegedly involved;

(c) if so, what were the main allegations made;

(d) whether the CBI has submitted its report; and

(e) what action has been taken against those responsible?

Disinvestment of Government's share in AI

1353. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India is still going in loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposed to disinvest their share in this company; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

License for airtaxi services

1354. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals for grant of licence for air taxi services are pending with the Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies whose proposals are awaiting clearance;

(c) what are the details of each proposal with number of aircrafts declared by each private taxi operator and routes/regions demanded for air operation; and

(d) what are the salient features of the policy with regard to air taxi services and whether all these pending proposals are within the ambit of this policy?

Poor quality of food in IA

1355. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of food served in the Indian Airlines is very poor as compared to that in the private airlines although the caterers for these airlines remain the same, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to improve the quality of food to be served in the Indian airlines to be at par with that of private airlines?

Flights from Madurai to important cities

1356. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate flights between Madurai and other important cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Involvement of corporate houses in Delhi Flying Club

1357. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to seek involvement of corporate houses to make share-holding investment in Delhi Flying Club to make the club best in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to invite corporates to revamp the operations and programmes of the club?

Civil airport at Bhuj

1358. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction

of a civil airport at Bhuj is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the financial allocation made for the purpose; and

(c) the time frame for completion of the project?

Operations by private airlines

1359. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private airlines, which have sought Government's approval to start operations in the domestic aviation industry; and

(b) the action taken to consider their proposals early and issue "No Objection Certificates"?

Airports in Gujarat

1360. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various political organisation and public representatives of Gujarat have made requests to Government for setting up more airports in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Merger of AI and IA

†1361. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to merge Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, by when such process would be completed; and

(c) the countries to which Air India and Indian Airlines have introduced new flights during the year 2001-2002?

Upgradation of in-flight facilities

1362. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to renovate cabins with seats that can be converted into flat beds and provide other facilities with a view to upgrade in-flight facilities in Air India flights particularly to U.S. and Europe;

(b) if so, the total amount to be spent on renovation; and

(c) how long this renovation is likely to take and by when the work is likely to commence?

Incentives to industrial units in UP

†1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the industrial units of Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of closure due to lack of import-export and capital investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will provide incentives to the leather, textiles and other major production units in Uttar Pradesh to protect them and to make them export-oriented; and

(d) if so, by when?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Complaints against CMD of STC

1364. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of complaints of atrocities/harassment of SC/ST employees are pending against the CMD of STC;

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

(c) whether Government have got the complaints investigated by an independent authority;

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

(e) what action has been taken/ Government propose to take against the CMD?

New markets for tobacco

1365. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether problems of the Tobacco industry have been studied;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to explore new markets for tobacco?

Transfer rules of STC

1366. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules/regulations governing transfer of employees/staff of STC, corporate office, New Delhi;

(b) whether as per the Memorandum of Settlement signed between Management and the Federation of STC employees unions, transfer can be ordered only on request made by employees;

(c) if so, whether some transfer orders have been issued last month in utter violation of all norms/rules governing transfer;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take against the officer responsible for issuing illegal orders; and

(e) by when transfer orders would be revoked/cancelled?

Tobacco Research Centre in Karnataka

1367. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka produces best quality virginia tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, the details of production in the State during the last three years;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned by export of tobacco during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to establish a Research Centre for tobacco growth in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Functions of ITPO

1368. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO);

(b) whether its existence has helped to increase exports in various fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the benefits reaped out of its existence during the last three years; and

(d) the details of foreign fairs conducted by ITPO during the last three years?

Coffee Retention plan

1369. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has finalised the modalities for implementation of the Coffee Retention plan, approved in principle by Government; and

(b) what are the details of the modalities finalised by the Coffee Board?

FDI in India

1370. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) what are the steps taken by Government since June, 91 so far to attract more FDI to India; and

(b) what are the details of FDI made every year from 1991-92 to 2000-2001?

Trade with Russia

1371. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia at a meeting recently held in Chennai on 2nd May, 2002, have discussed strengthening further development of trade and business between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent, both the countries have agreed to develop trade between the two countries?

Trade between India and EU

1372. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether European Union (EU) have decided to work with Indian business community to remove monetary and fiscal bottlenecks for doubling trade between the two regions in five years;

(b) if so, whether the EU is working systematically with Indian industry chambers and remove the sectoral problems especially in agro-industries; and

(c) if so, to what extent both India and EU have agreed to develop their trade?

Shifting of production facilities by MNCs

1373. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some multinationals have shifted their production facilities to India;

(b) if so, the number and nature of production of the multinationals shifted during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether the low wages prevailing in South Asia including India is the reason for the above shifting of the multinationals; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to protect labour's interest?

Benefits from Export Processing Zones

1374. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Processing Zones and Free Trade Zones in the country, State-wise;

(b) the benefits accrued to the country as a result of these zones during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to establish any such new zones in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Losses suffered by MMTC in joint venture

1375. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has reported a loss of Rupees 475 crore by MMTC in a joint venture called Indo-French Biotech Enterprises Ltd.;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the officers responsible for the same; and

(c) what are the details of other joint ventures of MMTC?

WTO assistance for trade negotiation

1376. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India has sought assistance from the World Trade Organisation in some specific areas of research, training and institution-building, under the \$30 million Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Fund, set-up recently to assist developing and less developed countries in the trade negotiation process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Industries in North-Eastern States

1377. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the new strategy of developing Commerce and Industry in North-Eastern States;

(b) the success in opening up the commercial water routes of Brahmaputra *via* Bangladesh and land routes by Stilwel road to Myanmar, Moreh route to Myanmar and Dawki route to Bangladesh; and

(c) what is the volume of trade both way during the last three years through these routes?

Linking of industrial development with national development

† 1378. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link industrial development with national development;

(b) if so, the names of the industries in which this type of system is operative;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Increase in crop-subsidy by America

† 1379. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that America has enhanced the ceiling of 'crop subsidy' by Rs. 2500/- crores in contravention of WTO rules, which may make a direct impact on India and other developing countries;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether doubt raised by developing countries at WTO meeting at Doha proved to be true; and

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

Growth centres in Orissa

1380. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what are the details of growth centres scheme functioning in Orissa to promote industrialization in the backward areas?

Development of townships in NER

1381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four townships in the North-Eastern Region are proposed for creating congenial atmosphere to attract foreign investment;

(b) if so, the names of townships along with their states; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned and released by the Central Government for the Development of these townships?

Programme for welfare of salt workers

1382. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme for the welfare of salt workers in the country, specially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years; and

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

Decline in Coffee export

1383. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's Coffee exports have gone down during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to boost export of Indian Coffee?

Competitiveness of Industrial groups

†1384. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to take steps to make industrial groups more competitive at the international level;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Duty free access to Bangladeshi products

1385. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has granted duty free access to 40 Bangladeshi products;

(b) if so, the reciprocal gesture shown by the Bangladesh;

(c) whether any request has been received by Government to receive/replace certain products in the list of 40 Bangladeshi products provided duty free access; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the request?

Assistance to rural clusters by NABARD/SIDBI

1386. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SIDBI and NABARD are assisting rural clusters for helping cottage Industries in Andhra Pradesh and the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of clusters developed with the assistance of SIDBI and NABARD separately in each State so far?

Assets of corporate giants

1387. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) the total assets of India's 1000 corporate giants in 1999, 2000 and 2001, year-wise; and

(b) the percentage of salary/wage expenses out of major manufacturing expenses of these corporate giants during these periods, year-wise?

Unemployment allowance for educated youths

1388. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the problem of growing number of unemployed youths in the country;

(b) whether Government are considering to give 'Unemployment allowance' to all the educated unemployed youths whose names are registered with the employment exchanges in the country;

(c) if so, by when, it will be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Refinance rate of NABARD

1389. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether Government propose to bring down the refinance rate of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for the benefit of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have received request from State Governments in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Recovery of loan from medium scale industries

1390. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance sanctioned by the nationalised banks to the large, medium and small scale industries, both in public and private sectors, during the last three years; year-wise, industry-size-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the recovery of loan made from each category (industry-size) during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding loans from the large and medium scale industries?

ATM facilities in Tamil Nadu

1391. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of nationalised banks having ATM facility, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more ATM facilities by nationalised banks in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Meeting of Asian Finance Ministers in Shanghai

1392. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether a high level meeting of the Asian Finance Ministers was held in Shanghai, China in May this year as part of the 35th Annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) whether any long term action plan targeting the likely economic-scenario and problems faced by the Asia in 2015 was discussed and worked out, if so, the details of the prospective scenarios, action plan discussed, the decisions taken therein and the action taken by Government thereon so far; and

(c) what role is contemplated for India under the Action Plan?

Independent Central Bank

1393. SHRI RAJMUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to establish an independent Central Bank on the lines of the Bank of England;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what benefits are anticipated for the industry and public at large from the proposed bank?

Denial of dividend by UTI

1394. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UTI has skipped the dividend for its flagship scheme US-64 this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the denial of dividend will hit lakhs of investors belonging mostly to middle class; and

(d) if so, what compensation is proposed to be offered to them?

Increase in prices of petroleum products

† 1395. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products time and again in the country will make impact on the economy of the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what's Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what action Government will take to save the country from its adverse effect?

Downgrading of India by Merrill Lynch

1396. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Fund Manager Merrill Lynch have recently downgraded India in preference to China and South Korea as most favoured investment destination;

(b) whether according to the Report, global investors perceive India as consistently non-performing;

(c) whether India's share constitutes only a meagre five per cent of the global emerging market capitalisation funds; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make India more investor friendly in the wake of FIIs pulling out almost \$75 million from Indian markets?

NPA of UTI

1397. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UTI's NPAs are more than Rs. 5,100 crores as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of major companies which have failed or are defaulting to pay back to UTI the capital invested or interest component over the last three years?

Bailout package of Assam

1398. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has

pleaded for sanctioning a bailout package to Assam to enable the State to meet its payment obligations;

(b) if so, whether the rescheduling of Central loan repayment liability and clearance of payment of State Tax on petroleum products, besides other steps have been requested for as a part of the package; and

(c) what is Government's response thereto?

Income Tax exemption on income from VRS

1399. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRIMATI VANGA

GEETHA:

SHRI C. RAMA-

CHANDRAIAH:

SHRIMATI SAVITA

SHARDA:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "VRS Income exempted from Tax" which appeared in the "Deccan Chronicle" (English) on 21st June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees who retired from the bank service under VRS on 31st March, 2001 and payment made during April-December, 2001 are also exempted from the tax;

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

(e) whether Ministry of Finance propose to give tax exemption to such bank employees from VRS income; and

(f) whether any modifications amending rules are likely to be issued by Government?

Misuse of export sops

1400. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether export sops are being increasingly misused; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to tighten inspection of exports and imports from/to free ports, especially from Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore?

Fiscal position of States

1401. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that situation has come to take steps to tackle the problem of deteriorating financial position of States;

(b) the reasons behind this pathetic condition of the States' finances, apart from borrowings from all quarters;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister is going to have a meeting in this regard with the State Finance Ministers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Risk based supervision system in banks

1402. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked all banks to set up their respective risk-based supervision (RBS) systems by 31st December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the deadline was conveyed to the banks at a meeting held recently;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this; and

(d) to what extent the directive of the RBI has been implemented by banks?

Allotment of PAN

1403. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Income Tax payers who have applied for Permanent Account Number (PAN) have not received the number from the concerned authorities even after a period of more than one year;

(b) if so, the total number of applications pending as on 30th June, 2002 with the Income Tax authorities; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the timely dispatch of PAN number to the Income Tax payers?

Raids on residence of MD of TFL

1404. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities have searched the office and residences of former Managing Director of Tata Finance Limited (TFL) and other executives;

(b) if so, what are the details of search and seizures conducted on Managing Director and other executives of TFL; and

(c) whether any action has been taken to recover the amount from these executives and if not, the reasons therefor?

Laws for prevention of drug trafficking

1405. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officials of World Customs Organisations and Interpol, monitoring illicit trafficking of drugs and contraband including opiate at the international level, had lately expressed serious concern over poor laws for preventing the menace and their enforcement in India, alleging nexus between law enforcer and traffickers;

(b) the details of seizures made during 1997 onwards and whether seizures show a sharp decline; and

(c) whether Government have reviewed the effectiveness and efficacy of the relevant laws and their enforcement, and the outcome of such a study and the steps being taken to improve the situation?

Production of illicit drugs in Himachal Pradesh

1406. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of large scale production of illicit drugs in the Kulu-Manali area of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what has been its impact on the economy of the area; and

(c) the measures being taken to bring the situation under control?

Tax concessions to Sharda Charitable Trust

1407. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of Sharda Charitable Trust, Jesselmer House, 44 A/2, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi;

(b) the tax concessions/relaxations available to such trusts;

(c) what are Government's regulatory mechanism to ensure that the concessions/relaxations are not misused and such trusts work for their objectives;

(d) whether Government have reports about the financial and functional irregularities, diversion of funds, etc., committed by Sharda Charitable Trust, if so, the details thereof;

(e) the checks/audits, etc. carried out on the said Trust during the last five years; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

Special Purpose Vehicle for financing infrastructural projects

1408. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

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

(a) whether a proposal has been formulated to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for financing Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 crores for infrastructure projects in the form of a mutual fund registered with the SEBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith allocation of funds to various projects under various sectors;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the financial institutions have opposed the

creation of the proposed Fund, being complex in nature and because it would only duplicate the already existing similar nodal financial institutions, the IDFC; and

(d) if so, the details of the objections received and final decision taken in the matter?

Transparency in transactions of Government Securities

1409. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trading in Government Securities are not allowed in Stock Exchanges across the counter in a transparent manner on screen and in a demutualised form;

(b) if so, the present practice of trade in G-secs and details arising thereof;

(c) whether the present practice does not have inbuilt safeguards against fraud as revealed in the Home Trade case;

(d) if so, whether any changes are being contemplated in the present practice and introduce trade under across the counter transactions in the exchanges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the tentative schedule in this regard?

Fake stamp paper racket

1410. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pune arrest exposes 9-state 2,000 crore racket" appearing in the "Indian Express", dated 18th June, 2002;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news article regarding deteriorating situation of selling fake stamp paper?

Writing off of losses of UCO bank

1411. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UCO bank has decided to write off its Rs. 1,751 crore loss against its capital;

(b) the details of the losses during the past last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the losses suffered by the bank; and

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

A.S. Ganguly report on Supervisory role in private banks

1412. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the A.S. Ganguly report on supervisory role in private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enact legislation to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for the implementation of eligibility criteria of selection for Directors of private banks?

Improvement in agricultural credit

1413. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that credit to agriculture continue to be below the target;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to achieve the target;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Investment in agriculture had also come down; and

(d) if so, what step Government propose to take to improve agriculture credit?

Kisan Credit Cards

† 1414. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been issued Credit Cards State-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any plan to issue credit cards to the marginal farmers of Bihar; and

(c) the major advantages of Kisan Credit Card and the details of the respective fields where these Cards can be used by the farmers?

Ad valorem Central Excise Duty on SSI Units

1415. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the levy of 4 per cent *ad valorem* Central Excise Duty on a number of SSI Units has made them unviable and

many of them are winding up and, therefore, have represented Government to waive the Excise Duty; and

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

Fiscal deficit

1416. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned Fiscal deficit shoots up to 5.9 per cent of G.D.P. appearing in the Business Standard dated 3rd June, 2002;

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

(c) what are the proposals of Government to lower down fiscal deficits?

Black Money

1417. DR. AKHILESH DAS: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN 'DURRU':

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Asian Age dated 3rd May 2002, that the Swiss Government with the help of Interpol has launched a major drive to clamp down on what they call, "dirty money";

(b) if so, what is the estimated total amount of such money belonging to Indians, including NGOs., institutions, Corporates and other entities; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Strengthening of financial institutions

1418. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of appraisal and due diligence by the public sector financial institutions needs to be strengthened to ensure that in case of default by the borrowers, the securities given by them are easily encashable; and

(b) whether Government propose to issue any fresh guidelines in this behalf in order to strengthen the foundation of the financial system?

New recruitment in Nationalised Banks

†1419. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the employees retired so far under voluntary retirement scheme in the nationalised banks, bank-wise;

(b) the names of the nationalised banks which have started recruitment due to shortage of employees; and

(c) the total number of employees to be recruited in each nationalised bank?

Transfer of saving accounts into dormant accounts by Rural Bank

1420. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions regarding transfer of saving accounts into dormant accounts by Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that Kurebhar Branch of Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank in U.P. is transferring accounts into dormant accounts or dead accounts in an arbitrary manner irrespective of amount in the accounts;

(d) if so, the details of accounts transferred into dormant accounts during November, 2000 alongwith justification thereof, account-wise; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by Government against guilty officers?

Appointment on compassionate ground in Regional Rural Bank in Madhubani

†1421. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any recommendation has been received for appointment on compassionate ground in Regional Rural Bank in Madhubani, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the formality of appointment is likely to be completed by Government?

Relief to Common man

1422. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering some proposals to give some relief to common man to boost consumer spending, as reported in the Hindustan Times of July 11, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in States' share from divisible pool

1423. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the total quantum of central resources (tax and non-tax) transferable to States from the divisible pool from the present 28 per cent to 50 per cent as demanded by some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to increase the avenues of revenue sources to States?

Insurance cover for Amarnath pilgrims

1424. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the Jammu and Kashmir Bank to take up the insurance cover for Amarnath pilgrims, during the "Chaddi-Mubarak";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the allocations made therefor?

Investigations against Tehalka. com

1425. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various agencies of the Ministry of Finance have launched investigations against Website Tehalka. com;

(b) if so, what is the nature of these investigations and how many cases have been registered against the portal; and

(c) what is the status of the investigations?

Excise duty on umbrellas

1426. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have levied 4 per cent excise duty on umbrellas in the Budget proposal of 2002-2003;

(b) if so, what is the projected revenue from this new proposal;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any request from the Umbrella manufacturers and traders to remove the proposed duty; and

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

DCA's action against vanishing companies

1427. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has recently launched proceedings against vanishing companies in the north for capital market frauds;

(b) if so, the names of companies against whom charge-sheets have been filed; and

(c) whether DCA is assisted by SEBI/ RBI in tracking such vanishing companies and if so, whether DCA will take up such cases in other regions of the country to instill confidence in the investing public?

Cases of bank frauds

1428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has suggested speedy action against the large

scale and mounting cases of bank frauds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to give effect to the directive of the CVC?

Bank branches in West Delhi

1429. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Bank of India, Corporation Bank and Bank of Baroda have not expanded their base by opening new branches in West Delhi during the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of branches of these banks in West Delhi at present and whether these are adequate in view of persisting demand of residents; and

(d) whether Government propose to open new branches of these banks in West Delhi particularly in Vikaspuri and if not, the reasons therefor?

Private hospitals in the panel of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

1430. SHRI SHYAM LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Private Nursing Homes/Hospitals have been kept on State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur panel in District Jaipur when Government Hospitals are also available;

(b) the reasons for not providing such facilities in other States also;

(c) whether the employees can be reimbursed at the rate of Jaipur Nursing

Hospitals/Homes in other States for all treatment including maternity/delivery etc.; and

(d) the future planning on (b and c) above?

Confiscation of smuggled goods

† 1431. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of smuggled goods and foreign currency confiscated by the custom officials posted at different Airports in the country during the last three years till the end of the year 2001;

(b) the details regarding the arrests made in this regard during the above period;

(c) the number of officials awarded in this regard;

(d) the number of officers who have not been awarded prizes inspite of announcements for the same; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise?

Revenue collection

1432. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection of revenue both direct and indirect taxes during the current financial year ending June, 2002;

(b) whether it is above/below the target set in the budget;

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the tax collection across the country; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring many sections of the people into the tax bracket and if so, how it is likely to be implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Finalization of debt swap operation

1433. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalized the contours of a massive debt swap operation which is expected to lower the Central Government's current year's gross fiscal deficit by almost 1 per cent of the GDP;

(b) whether the scheme is for States to prepay Rs. 85,000 crores of high cost debt to the Central Government over three years and borrow fresh money at cheaper rates; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan?

Financial aid to States from ADB

1434. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which received financial aid from ADB for economic and structural reforms;

(b) the details of the amount received by each State, State-wise; and

(c) the details of conditions for granting the financial assistance, State-wise?

Chellapati Rao Committee on reorganisation of RRBs

1435. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a report from M.V.S. Chellapati Rao Committee on reorganisation of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to take action on the recommendations?

Medium term loan to Rajasthan

1436. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan has approached the Central Government for sanction of a medium term loan to the State so as to remove the recurring problem of entering into overdrafts; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received and the decision taken thereon and/or the present status of its consideration?

Payment of salaries through banks

† 1437. SHRI HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even in today's computerized age payments of salary to the employees of all Government departments including railways is made in cash;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to issue an order to all their departments to make payments through banks; and

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

Ban on share transaction of companies

† 1438. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Stock Exchange has banned the transaction in the shares of 24 companies recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(c) the reasons for banning the transactions in the shares of each company?

Increase in strikes in banks

1439. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of strikes in various nationalised banks in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the mandays lost on account of strikes conducted by various banks during the last three years, till-date together with the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and the details of action proposed to be taken against each employee of banks?

Issuing of search warrants

1440. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.B.D.T. has issued any directions in contravention of Act of Parliament (Income Tax Act) that Director of Income-Tax need to take administrative approval of Director General of Income-Tax before issuing search warrants u/s 132 of I.T. Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether C.B.D.T. or any other I.T. Authorities have issued similar directions of taking approval from the senior authorities for taking action u/s 133 A (Survey); and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Lower revenue collections

1441. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last five financial years 1996-97 to 2001-2002, collection of both direct taxes and indirect taxes was lower than what was mentioned by the Finance Minister in his budget estimates;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even the revised estimates during this period (except 1999-2000) were not met; and

(c) what measures, like periodical monitoring, etc. are proposed to be adopted in this regard?

Strike by employees of I.T. department

1442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Strike hits filing of I.T. returns" which appeared in the Times of India dated 6th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike by the employees of the Income Tax Department;

(c) what alternative arrangements have been made to ensure that those visiting the I.T. offices to file their returns do not face any inconvenience; and

(d) whether the last date of filing returns is being extended beyond 31st July, 2002 and if not, the reasons therefor?

Fake letter of credits

† 1443. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that issuing of fake letter of credit is going on a large scale in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete steps to check the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when such steps would be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stagnation in U.P. stock exchange

† 1444. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uttar Pradesh stock exchange's existence is in danger due to shortcomings and stagnation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would make any concrete scheme to remove the shortcomings in the exchange and to make it attractive for capital investment; and

(d) if so, by when?

Pre-trial disposal of seized drugs

1445. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of seized narcotic drugs lying in the godowns of Narcotics Control Bureau, drug-wise;

(b) whether the concerned Act provide for pre-trial disposal of seized drugs;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in getting mandatory court approval for early disposal of seized drugs; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to dispose off entire quantity of seized drugs lying in godowns at present?

Acquisition of shares by ONGC in MRPL

1446. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to buy the BIRLA shares of Mangalore Refinery (MRPL);

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) what is the price ONGC is planning to offer to MRPL shares; and

(d) the reasons for ONGC diverting its funds into refinery instead of its core business of exploration and development of oil?

Losses suffered by oil companies in post APM era

1447. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and IBP have together lost about Rs. 1600 crore in the first 45 days of dismantling of administered pricing mechanism from April 1, on account of selling products below the cost of crude;

(b) if so, whether he has stated that the 10th Five Year Plan should take into account the previous achievements and reflect ground realities;

(c) whether he has also sought changes in the draft plan document relating to the Ministry including privatisation of oil companies; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to check the loss suffered by these companies?

Availability of CNG

1448. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) was supposed to make available 16.1 lakh kg. of CNG from 30th June this year per day in Delhi but is dispensing only 4.8 lakh kg. per day;

(b) whether CNG buses on road have crossed more than 6000 whereas the gas supply have hardly gone up;

(c) whether with the dearth of CNG, school kids are compelled to go by 'Tongas' to their schools as buses spend whole nights at the CNG filling station; and

(d) if so, what are Government's plans in this regard?

Switching of Mobile phones at petrol pumps

1449. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been sent to the State Governments for issuing orders to switch off Mobile phones at petrol pumps;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States fire service authorities find it difficult to implement any measure in the absence of specific orders of the State Government; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure safety of petrol pumps?

Wait-listed LPG applicants

1450. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wait-listed LPG registrants in the country as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the target fixed during the current financial year 2002-2003 for releasing new LPG connections;

(c) whether any time-frame/road map has been prepared to liquidate the waiting list for gas connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Freight equalisation scheme

1451. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil Companies are considering a proposal to do away with the freight equalisation scheme and there will be wide variation in the prices of petrol and diesel in Inland town compared to Coastal areas; and

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

New oil platforms in Mumbai

1452. DR. N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has a plan to install about 14 new well Head Platforms in Mumbai as a part of its massive programme of development of Oil fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC used to place orders on Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam and it has delivered 11 well Head Platforms earlier to ONGC but no new orders were placed on HSL since 1989;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government will prevail upon the ONGC to place orders on HSL for a few Platforms on nomination basis?

Self-sufficiency in crude production

1453. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is looking at becoming self-sufficient in production of crude;

(b) if so, whether domestic crude oil production rose to 1.9 per cent in April, 2002 as compared to targeted figure for the month;

(c) whether the production was also 10.1 per cent higher than production of corresponding period last year;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for increase of crude production and to what extent this increase will make India self-sufficient in the crude oil production; and

(e) what efforts are being made to improve its production further?

IOC's pipeline projects

1454. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has dropped 15 pipeline projects;

(b) if so, the details of each project and the reasons for their non-implementation; and

(c) in what manner this move will affect the transportation of products by IOC?

Sale of LPG to customers by ONGC

1455. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has sought permission from Government to sell LPG directly to the bulk customers;

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

(c) whether the sale of LPG to customers directly by ONGC will have any impact on other oil companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of CNG in Delhi

1456. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the shortage of CNG in Delhi will be over;

(b) the details of the measures taken by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas so far in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no co-ordination between allocation of CNG and the dispensing machinery of CNG; and

(d) by when all this mismatch be settled in the interest of the citizens of Delhi?

LPG requirement of A.P.

1457. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of LPG for domestic and commercial use in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the demand was fully met, if not, what was the shortfall; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure full requirement of LPG of Andhra Pradesh?

Customer Service Cells in AP

1458. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil companies have set up Customer Service Cells in Andhra Pradesh to tackle grievances of LPG consumers;

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

(c) the number of complaints received and action taken thereon by the Cells of each company during the last two years, year-wise?

Shift to organic fuel sources

1459. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to reduce their dependence on fossil fuel for automobiles and replacing it with organic fuels from oil bearing trees and plants, using vast tracts of wasteland; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this plan?

Procedure for awarding dealership

1460. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering for continuing with the old procedure for awarding petrol pumps and LPG agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the public sector oil companies have requested to continue the practice on dealership as before APM; and

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

Entry of private companies in retail sector

1461. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of PNG has granted permission to private companies to sell petroleum products through retail outlets;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and the details of the agreement thereof; and

(c) whether social obligations in the allotment of retail outlets have been included in the agreement and if so, the details thereof?

Import of surplus gas from Bangladesh

1462. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government of Bangladesh has accorded its approval for the proposed export of surplus natural gas to India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement reached with Bangladesh;

(c) the arrangements finalised for laying the pipelines and time-frame fixed for actual flow of gas to India; and

(d) the areas to be covered for distribution of this gas?

Anamoly in foreign postings

1463. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in Hindustan Times dated 21st June, 2002 under the caption, "IAS Lobby changing guidelines to get overseas Tourism Ministry jobs";

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted in the report which, besides affecting adversely the career prospects of the departmental professions, are also defeating the very prospects of improving tourism which is suffering from one of the worst recessions in recent times?

Funds for development of tourism

1464. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote and develop tourism sector in the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated and actually granted to the various States for promotion and development of tourism infrastructure during the last two years and till date;

(c) whether the funds allocated for the States have been utilized during this period; and

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

Appointment of professors in IGNC

† 1465. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Departments functioning in Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, norms set for the qualification of Heads of the Departments and whether the Heads of the Departments of the centre belong to the same Department;

(b) whether all the Departments do not have professors, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the grounds on which and under whose orders the professors incharge of Kala Kosh Vibhag and Jansampada Vibhag were removed; and

(d) by when Government would appoint the departmental professors for artistic activities of the centre and for smooth functioning of all the Departments?

Boost to tourism industry

1466. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has urged the Prime Minister to take immediate steps to give a boost to the tourism;

(b) if so, whether one of the main issues was restoring LTC facility to Government employees;

(c) whether any concrete proposal in this regard has been worked out;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to give a boost to the tourism in view of slump from 11th September, 2001 attack; and

(e) to what extent these steps have improved tourism?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Facilities to foreign and Indian tourists

† 1467. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities being provided by Government to the domestic as well as foreign tourists at various places/States in the country; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to attract more and more tourists?

Promotion of tourism in Orissa

1468. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have promised financial help for beautification of Sun temple at Konark in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are similar other beautification or development projects in hand or proposed to be taken up with Central assistance in the State; and

(d) if so, the schemes drawn up by Government for development of tourism in the State?

Publication of books in Indian languages

1469. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of books published in various Indian languages and States separately during 2001-2002 as recorded by the National Libraries;

(b) whether the information collected reveal the correct picture of the publishing activity in the country; and

(c) if not, what steps are contemplated to remedy it?

Unearthing of stone age site in M.P.

1470. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a stone age site has recently been unearthed in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the site has since been declared a protected historical monument under the Archaeological Survey of India Act; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Nomination for world heritage city

1471. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have nominated any city as world heritage city;

(b) whether the UNESCO has conferred world heritage status to any city of India;

(c) if so, what is the name of the city; and

(d) if not, whether Government will consider the feasibility of nominating any city of India?

Dispute over custody of antique items

1472. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is some dispute between the Central and State Governments over the custody of the jewellery and other precious antique items of Nizam;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of items and their value and the stand of the State Government; and

(c) in what manner the issue is proposed to be resolved?

Conservation of heritage

† 1473. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programme for maintaining heritage of art and culture of the country;

(b) whether the existence of cultural and historical heritage of the country is on the extinct, if so, the reasons therefor and the persons who are responsible for this; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government for the conservation of the artistic, cultural and historical heritage of the country and also against the elements which are proving to be obstacles in its development?

Implementation of ERC's recommendations

1474. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the Asian Age, dated the 9th May, 2002 captioned "ERC suggestions gather dust, yet to be implemented";

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has since decided to implement the ERC's recommendations; and

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

Financial aid for tourism projects

† 1475. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to provide financial aid for development of tourism to those States only which have proper tourism projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States from which Government have received tourism projects till June 30, 2002 and what are the State-wise and the project-wise details thereof?

Investment target for development of tourism

1476. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of investments made in tourism sector during the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans;

(b) the details of investment target made for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the development of tourism sector in the country; and

(c) the extent of which the target have been achieved so far in the country, Plan-wise?

Poor working of ITDC Hotels

1477. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of development and renovation of ITDC Hotels cannot be completed without budget support from the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the amount required from the Ministry of Finance;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture is not able to generate funds from its hotels; and

(d) the reasons for poor working of ITDC hotels?

Corruption in maintenance of historical places and institutions

† 1478. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existence of historical places and institutions throughout the country is jeopardized due to lack of their proper maintenance as a result of corruption prevailing therein; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Village tourism in A.P.

1479. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to develop atleast one village from each State as a tourist destination with a view to promote village tourism;

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

(c) the criteria for the identification of the villages; and

(d) the villages identified from Andhra Pradesh?

Recharging of ground water

1480. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any project for recharging ground water

continuously for a better ground water management; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project alongwith details of the fund allotted and utilized State wise and year-wise during the last two years?

Incentives for water harvesting

1481. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government were considering to come out with incentives for encouraging water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider providing incentives for this purpose in view of shortage of power/ water in urban areas?

Drawbacks in National Water Policy

† 1482. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several drawbacks in the National Water Policy due to which the market lobbies are enjoying benefits;

(b) if so, whether this new water policy has neglected the expectations of the people with regard to decentralization of water development and management and promotion of water collection on community basis; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for decentralization of water development and management and promoting water collection on community basis?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rain water harvesting reserves

† 1483. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is ample rain water available in the country;

(b) if so, whether rain water harvesting reserves have been set up in each State of the country; and

(c) if so, the storage capacity of each of the rain water harvesting reserves set up in each of such States in the country?

Funds allocated for rain water harvesting

† 1484. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any Rain Water Harvesting Scheme for implementation at national level;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme;

(c) the names of the States where the implementation of said scheme has started; and

(d) the funds allocated by Government for this purpose State-wise during the current financial year?

Steps for checking erosion in Murshidabad, W.B.

1485. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to

check the bank erosion of Ganga in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are aware that a vast stretch of Indian land in Indo-Bangladesh border has been engulfed by this continuous erosion and thus caused serious concern about the change of Indian border line with Bangladesh; and

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

Outcome of the Indo-French Conference

1486. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Research and Training Centre was inaugurated in February, 2002 under the aegis of Indo-French Technical and Scientific Co-operation to study water and waste management;

(b) if so, the outcome of such a conference;

(c) whether Government have been benefited out of such a joint venture; and

(d) in what manner it would help to tackle the water problem that exists in the country?

Budgetary provisions for water studies

1487. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the water transfer links which fall under study by the NWDA in peninsular India;

(b) what is the action plan to complete the feasibility studies of these peninsular links;

(c) what is the budgetary provision for the studies; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what is the response of the concerned States for the inter-basin transfer?

Transfer of water from Krishna to Pennar basin

1488. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan with Government to solve the chronic water problem of drought prone area by transferring water from surplus river basin to deficit ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer water from Krishna to Pennar basin to meet the water needs of Rayalaseema area in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and when Government propose to initiate the works of the project?

On-Farm Development Works

1489. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce ten per cent minimum mandatory charges for On-Farm Development (OFD) works;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States who have agreed to the proposal; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to provide sound legal backing and organisational frame-work for Participatory Irrigation Management?

Project Agreement for Orissa between IDA and Orissa water Resources Consolidation Project

1490. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has been able to maintain the full cost recovery as provided under scheduled 2 C (Implementation Programme) of the Project Agreement for Orissa between I.D.A. and Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project; and

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

Completion of irrigation projects in Assam

1491. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects of Assam which have not been completed;

(b) the dates on which these projects were started and by when the above projects are likely to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay; and

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

Rehabilitation package for displaced persons

1492. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of poor people including SC/ST population who have been displaced following the construction of big dams, are yet to be suitably rehabilitated, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the rehabilitation packages are being implemented in a fair and transparent manner; and

(c) if so, what are the remedial measures being taken by Government?

World Bank loan for irrigation projects in Gujarat

1493. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going irrigation projects in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) had cleared certain more irrigation projects in Gujarat for getting World Bank loan;

(c) if so, the amount of loan sought;

(d) the details of irrigation projects to be financed with this loan; and

(e) the number of irrigation projects awaiting clearance/pending with Government?

NEW DELHI;
The 24th July, 2002
Sravana 2, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

INDEX

(Ministry-wise)

Civil Aviation	: 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362,
Commerce and Industry	: 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385,
Finance and Company Affairs	: 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445,
Petroleum and Natural Gas	: 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462,
Tourism and Culture	: 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479,
Water Resources	: 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493.