

agencies and recovered through banks taken together constitute less than 0.001% of the total notes in circulation. The apparent reason for circulation of FICN is to make quick profit. However, many instances of fake notes coming into the country originating from across the border have come to the notice of the Intelligence Agencies.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes in 2005 to make counterfeiting very difficult. To strengthen the security of bank notes further, incorporation of latest security features is underway. A High Level Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising officials from central agencies and other senior police officials has been constituted to monitor and draw a comprehensive strategy to combat FICN. Similar bodies have also been set up in the States. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. However, RBI has informed that all the currency chest maintaining branches (4299) and 210 non chest branches of commercial and private banks have been equipped with Note Sorting Machines. Banks have also been advised to install Note Sorting Machines at the sensitive and large cash handling branches so that counterfeit notes get impounded as soon as they enter the banking channel and are stopped from further circulation.

Deputations under Central Staffing Scheme

1857. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken for earmarking posts in the Higher Administrative Grade (+) for Indian Revenue Service (IT) and Indian Revenue Service (C&CE);

(b) whether it is a fact that there are posts available for this grade for the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service, in the States;

(c) what action has been taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Sixth Central Pay Commission on the issue of deputations under Central Staffing Scheme of Government; and

(d) whether these recommendations have been listed in the pending items notified for further deliberations by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) In line with the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission, 6 posts of Member in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and 5 posts of

Member in the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) were granted the Higher Administrative Grade (+) scale (Rs.75,500-80,000/-). Subsequently, after taking into account various aspects, the Govt. of India has decided to further upgrade the above posts to the apex scale of Rs. 80,000/- (fixed) with the status of Special Secretary to the Govt. of India.

(b) the grade of Higher Administrative Grade (+) is applicable to some posts in the Indian Police Service, but not to Indian Administrative Service;

(c) no action has been taken on the issue;

(d) the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission regarding Central Staffing Scheme are not listed in the pending items notified for further deliberations by the Government.

Special economic package for Bihar

†1858. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Bihar has demanded a special economic package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes not to give Bihar the status of a special State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Finance has not received any demand for a Special Economic Package for the Government of Bihar in the current year. However, Chief Minister of Bihar has written a letter to the Prime Minister seeking assistance and support on various issues including Kosi Reconstruction and Rehabilitation and grant of Special Category Status to Bihar. A proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar regarding grant of Special Category Status to the State and Government of India is seized of the matter.

Broadening the net for excise duty

1859. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to raise tax revenue for economic recovery, it has become necessary to broaden the net for excise duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it be ensured that the poor and lower middle class people are not adversely affected?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.