

Description	Number of items	Name of major sub groups
Primary articles	98	1. Food article, 2. Non-food articles and 3. Minerals
Fuel, power, light and lubricants	19	1. Coal, 2. Mineral oil and 3. Electricity
Manufactured products	318	1. Food products; 2. Beverages, tobacco and tobacco products; 3. Textiles; 4. Wood and wood products; 5. Paper and paper products; 6. Leather and leather products; 7. Rubber and plastic products; 8. Chemicals and chemical products; 9. Non-metallic mineral products; 10. Basic metals, alloys and metal products; 11. Machinery and machine tools and 12. Transport equipment and parts.

(c) The base year of current series of WPI is 1993-94. The WPI is determined from price data collected for 435 commodities through 1918 quotations. The budget is formulated every year on nominal basis at current prices. The Five Year Plans, however, generally assess resource availability and expenditure requirements on the basis of the price level of the last year of the previous five year plan. For example, the assessment of the resource availability and expenditure requirements of the Eleventh Plan has been done at 2006-07 prices.

Loans for small and micro irrigation projects

2822. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the banks to offer loans for small and micro irrigation projects to reduce the dependence on monsoon;

(b) if so, whether Government has also directed the Chiefs of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to provide long-term loans for continuous irrigation;

(c) if so, the details of applications relating to irrigation projects for long-term loans pending with the banks for approval; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) Banks provide loans to small and micro irrigation projects. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) refines loans for Minor Irrigation which include small and micro irrigation loans also. NABARD's refinance for the last three years in this regard is as under:

2009-10:	Rs.125.52 crore (as on October, 2009)
2008-09:	Rs.545.85 crore
2007-08:	Rs.403.68 crore

NABARD as a policy has included small and micro irrigation as one of the thrust areas for the year 2009-10. Further, consequent upon Government of India declaring 299 districts spread across 12 States as drought affected (based on the rainfall data provided by India Meteorological Department), NABARD has issued instructions dated 2 September, 2009 on Drought Relief Measures by Banks, to its Regional Offices advising them, *inter alia*, that they may call upon State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) to finance water saving devices and support water conservation measures (Drip, Sprinkler system of irrigation) so as to minimize the impact of drought on rural people and economy.

Tax disputes of foreign companies

2823. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has decided to set up panels to settle tax disputes of foreign companies operating in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of tax disputes of foreign companies operating in India which are pending for settlement;
- (d) whether procedure and rules have been framed to reduce the impact of judgmental errors in determining transfer price in international transactions; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has decided to set up Dispute Resolution Panels for settlement of tax disputes of foreign companies operating in India in the following cities; Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune.

(c) 1398 cases of foreign companies operating in India are pending before appellate authorities. Tax revenue involved in such cases is about Rs. 7325 crores.

(d) and (e) The income-tax (Dispute Resolution Panel) Rules, 2009 have been notified *vide* S.O. 2958 (E) dated 20th November, 2009 to regulate the procedure of the Dispute Resolution Panel.

NPA's of Banks

2824. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Public Sector Banks have risen to Rs. 44,000 crores till March, 2009 despite the fact that last year (2008) Government had waived off a large portion of such bad loans through Agricultural Loan Waiver Scheme;