

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

(a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that the levy of service charges beyond a certain number of withdrawals is as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms for usage of other Banks' ATMs by customers and in line with the guidelines issued by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for all member banks and are applicable to all the banks. As per RBI norms, with effect from 15th October, 2009, free cash withdrawals from other bank ATMs are allowed to account holders up to five transaction per calendar month. This facility is extended only to Savings Bank customers.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The decision is in the interest of common savings account holders as it facilitates free cash withdrawals (up to 5 times a month) from other banks ATMs as well. The limit of Rs.10000 per transaction (cash withdrawals) and permitting free transactions only to savings account holders would restrict un-curtailed free ATM use by current account holders and ensuring availability of adequate cash balance at the ATMs to serve a larger number of customers. The instructions dated March 10, 2008 were relaxed by RBI after due consideration of the representation made by banks and customer interests.

Leak of template for Indian currency

2799. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has set up a team to probe the leak of an ultra secret template for Indian currency that led to circulation of near-perfect fakes worth hundred of crores of rupees; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recovery from salary and pension

2800. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed rules/regulations/ guidelines under which recovery from the salary of a Government employee can be effected;
- (b) whether recovery from pension can also be effected;
- (c) if so, the rules/regulations/guidelines in this regard; and
- (d) whether the same set of regulations governed such cases in autonomous bodies also?

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

(a) The recovery from the salary of a government employee can be effected under Rules 73,74,75,76 and 79 of the Central Government (Receipts and Payments) Rules, 1983 and Rule 11 (iii) of Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

(b) and (c) Recovery of pension/Dearness Relief on pension can be made as per Rule 9 and 72(6) of the provisions of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. Under Rule 71 of these Rules, the Government dues which remain outstanding till the date of retirement can be adjusted against retirement gratuity.

(d) Recovery from the salary and pensions of employees/retirees of autonomous bodies would depend on the Rules applicable in those bodies.

Tax evasion by builders

2801. SHRIDHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many big builders are evading paying of income-tax;
- (b) if so, the details of such builders and income-tax evaded during the last three years;
- (c) whether Income Tax Department have raided or issued show cause notices to some builders; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. Certain cases of tax evasion by builders have come to the notice of Income-tax Department.

(b) to (d) The Income-tax Department has conducted Search and Seizure operations under Section 132 of the Income tax Act, 1961 in total 182 cases of builders and developers all over the country during the last three Financial Years. The operations have led to detection of total undisclosed income of Rs.3541.38 Crore.

Directive of HRD Ministry on austerity measures

2802. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked the various Ministries and Departments to cut down its Non-Plan expenditure by 10 per cent as an austerity measure;
- (b) if so, whether the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has issued a directive to all institutions functioning under it to increase the fee and also stop giving subsidies to hostels as a part of its austerity measures; and
- (c) if so, how his Ministry justify in increasing the fee and withdrawal of subsidies to hostels as austerity measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) In September, 2009, Ministry of Finance have advised all Ministries/Departments to effect a mandatory 10% cut in non-plan expenditure on Domestic and Foreign Travel expenses, Publications, professional services, Advertising and Publicity, Office Expenses, POL (except for security related requirement) and other administrative expenses and a 5% cut on the remaining portion (excluding interest payments, repayment of debt, Defence capital, salaries, pension and the Finance Commission grants to the States).