

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ensure completion of upgradation of non-metro airports without any further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such direction has been issued by the Government.

(d) Works are regularly monitored by a dedicated project team. Besides, an independent Project Monitoring and Quality Assurance (PMQA) Department has been set up at Corporate Headquarters of Airports Authority of India (AAI) to ensure regular monitoring and quality assurance at sites through periodic site inspection visits and holding review and coordination meetings to remove hindrances and expedite progress without any further cost escalation.

Relaxation in customs and excise duties

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announces relaxation/concession in customs and excise duties from time to time;

(b) if so, whether there is any mechanism in position to ensure that benefits of such concessions/relaxation reach consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any action has been taken against defaulters; if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) There is no specific provision in customs and excise laws requiring the passing on of the reduction in customs and excise duties to the consumers. In any case, the price of a commodity depends on a variety of factors such as cost of inputs, supply and demand position, R&D costs, product quality, sales promotion cost, trade commission, freight charges, the landed cost of similar goods etc. Customs and Central Excise duties applicable to the product are only one of these factors.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Assistance of World Bank for construction of bridge

†452. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has proposed to provide financial assistance to India for the construction of bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the terms and conditions for such financial assistance; and
 (d) the details of bridges likely to be constructed with this assistance, State-wise especially in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
 (a) No, Sir. The World Bank has not offered financial assistance specifically for construction of bridges.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Direct tax collection

453. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is Government's target for direct tax collection for financial year 2009-10 and how much tax was collected till December, 2009;
 (b) whether it is a fact that Government's revenue collection target for 2009-10 has run into an unforeseen obstacle due to shortage of senior personnel in Income Tax Department;
 (c) if so, how many posts of the rank of Commissioner and other senior officials still lying vacant; and
 (d) by when Government proposes to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of Direct Tax collection up to the Month of December 2009-10 is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)			
F.Y.	Budget Estimates 2009-10	Collection up to the month of December 2009	% age of B.E. achieved.
2009-10	370,000	250,232	67.63%

The Collection figure of 2009-10 is provisional.

- (b) No, Sir.
 (c) and (d) Vacancies arise from time to time on account of retirement, promotion etc., in various senior grades. To fill up the vacancies in the grade of Commissioner of Income Tax and Additional/Joint Commissioner of Income Tax proposals have been sent to Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for filling up these vacancies.

Estimate of fake currency in circulation

†454. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item published in print media stating that fake currency worth one lakh crore in circulation in Indian market which is the size of India's defence budget;

¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.