

Decline in Tax-GDP ratio

*269. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tax-GDP ratio of the country has decreased in the last financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the concessions to the big corporates have led to this decrease in tax revenue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The following statistical table may be referred to in this regard:

Tax revenue as proportion of GDP

(in per cent)

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (BE)	2008-09 (Prov.)	2009-10 (BE)
Direct Tax	4.1	4.3	5.1	6.0	6.9	6.1	6.0
(a) Income Tax	1.5	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.6	2.2	1.8
(b) Corporate Tax	2.6	2.7	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.8	4.2
Indirect Tax	5.3	5.4	5.6	5.6	6.1	4.8	4.4
(a) Customs	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.6
(b) Excise	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.0	1.7
(c) Service Tax	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1
Gross Tax Revenue	9.4	9.9	11.1	12.0	13.0	10.9	10.4

Source of data: Economic Survey 2009-10

(b) and (c) The decline in tax-GDP ratio can be broadly attributed to the following factors: (1) global economic melt-down; (2) remedial steps taken by the government to protect the Indian economy and industry from the impact of global economic meltdown; (3) several tax cuts announced since the year 2008-09, as 'fiscal stimulus packages' to boost the aggregate demand, revive the Indian economy and place it on the path of high growth.

Laying of gas pipeline in Kerala

*270. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) had sought approval from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for laying a 15 kilometre long gas pipeline from Vallarpadam to Kalamassery in Kerala as a part of the Kochi LNG terminal work;

(b) if so, whether the GAIL had informed that the gas pipeline does not fall under the list of utilities;

(c) if so, whether steps will be taken to include gas pipeline as a utility; and

(d) whether these steps will be taken without any delay since the laying of pipeline on the NHAI stretch falls under Phase-1 of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. is laying Kochi-Koottanad-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline for evacuation of gas from Kochi Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal. Phase-I of the pipeline includes 26 km stretch from Kochi to Alwaye. This involves laying about 15 km gas pipeline stretch from Vallarpadam to Kalamassery along the National Highway. GAIL (India) Ltd. has applied to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for permission for the same.

(b) No sir. Gas pipelines come under the list of utilities for which Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has a policy for accommodation along and across National Highways.

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

Leprosy cases in India

*271. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India accounts for the highest number of new leprosy cases in the world; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to eliminate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The goal of leprosy elimination (*i.e.* prevalence rate of less than 10 cases per lakh population) has been achieved at the National Level in December, 2005. However, the strategy of early detection and treatment of leprosy cases with multi-drug therapy (MDT) is being intensified to further reduce the burden of leprosy from current level of 7 cases per lakh population.

Losses suffered by petro companies

†*272. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading petro companies are running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.