

- (c) the steps being taken to construct own building for the SBI branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that as on date total number of 1497 branches of the Bank are functioning in the rented buildings in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, inadequate space is observed at 28 branches and shifting of these branches to new premises is under active consideration of the bank.

- (c) No such proposal is under consideration of SBI.

Disinvestment of Government equity

2031. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has disinvested a part of its Government equity recently;

- (b) if so, what is the extent to which the equity amount acquired thereby;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the share offer reserved for small retail investors was grossly undersubscribed;

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

- (e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):
(a) Yes Sir, Government has disinvested 5% paid up equity capital of NTPC Ltd. out of its shareholding of 89.50%.

- (b) The Government realized an amount of Rs.8480 crore.

(c) to (e) The portion reserved for retail investors was subscribed to the extent of 0.15 times. In a Follow-on Public Offering the response of retail investor is often low as the price is already discovered and the shares are available in the market. At a time when the sensex had fallen 700 points during the three days of the Issue period, the overall Issue was subscribed 1.23 times.

Prohibition of doctors from accepting gifts

†2032. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India (MCI) has requested Government to forbid the doctors from accepting the gifts from pharmaceutical companies apart from prohibiting the companies from giving gifts to doctors;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.