

(b) what are the steps initiated for reviving and pushing up Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of our economy and promoting industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) As per the latest Advanced Estimates of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the economy is estimated to grow at 7.2 per cent in 2009-10, up from a level of 6.7 per cent in 2008-09. In the second quarter of 2009-10, growth is placed at 7.9 per cent (year-on-year). The above two facts indicate that in the current fiscal, the economy is recovering from the slowdown in 2008-09 in the aftermath of global financial and economic crisis. A significant part of the revival owes to the stimulus packages. The stimulus measures announced by the Government in December, 2008, January and February, 2009 were both sector specific and macro economy wide in nature. Some of the key sectors for which specific measures were put in place include: exports especially textiles, leather and gems and jewellery; medium, small and micro enterprises, infrastructure and housing.

Report of 13th Finance Commission

56. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13th Finance Commission's report was submitted to the President on 30th December, 2009;

(b) if so, whether Finance Commission report has suggested new plan for fiscal consolidation for next five years; and

(c) if so, what are other main suggestions made in the report and whether Government has accepted these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission with the explanatory memorandum as to action taken on recommendations will be placed before both Houses of the Parliament on 25.2.2010.

Curtailing fiscal deficit

57. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit is high;

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

(c) the steps being taken to contain the high fiscal deficit in the remaining period of Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (c) The Budget for 2009-10 presented on July 6, 2009 envisaged a continuance of the process of fiscal expansion and the fiscal deficit was placed at Rs. 4,00,996 crore for the full year (6.8 per cent of the GDP). To counteract the adverse impact of the two major economic shocks in 2008-09, namely, a sharp rise in international commodity prices in the first half and the global