

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

(a) to (d) 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. Monitoring the emerging macroeconomic situation and calibrating policies to mitigate the adverse impact and restore growth momentum is an ongoing process. The expansionary fiscal stance is a short-term measure to address demand slowdown in the economy. To address medium term sustainability concerns, the Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement 2009-10 indicates intention to resume the process of fiscal consolidation with a fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent of the GDP in 2010-11 and 4.0 per cent of the GDP in 2011-12. The Government has already indicated that the fiscal stimulus will not be rolled back in 2009-10. The expansionary fiscal stance is a short-term measure to address demand slowdown in the economy and to minimise the adverse impact of global financial crisis.

Agriculture credit

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set a target of providing Rs. 3,25,000 crores for 2009-10 for credit to agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of credit so far provided during this year to farmers in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries in the agriculture sector, State-wise?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As against the target of Rs. 3,25,000 crore for the year 2009-10, the actual flow of agricultural credit upto November, 2009 stood at Rs. 1,96,227.72 crore constituting about 60% achievement to target. The State-wise progress of credit flow to Agriculture alongwith the number of accounts during the period 1.4.2009 to 30.11.2009 is given in the Statement.

Statement

*Credit flow to agriculture progress for the period of
01.04.2009 to November, 2009*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	No of A/cs	Amount
1	2	3	4
North			
1.	Delhi	13	21

1	2	3	4
2.	Haryana	712672	194253
3.	Punjab	773601	486697
4.	Himachal Pradesh	40146	30083
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	5206	3595
6.	Uttar Pradesh	3189941	615245
7.	Uttarakhand	117379	34664
SUB TOTAL		4838958	1364558
East			
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	516	226
9.	Bihar	677427	140245
10.	Chhattisgarh	788321	338814
11.	Jharkhand	49689	7572
12.	Orissa	1281073	205832
13.	West Bengal	650465	98897
SUB TOTAL		3447491	791585
North East			
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	640	125
15.	Assam	32736	9467
16.	Manipur	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	2555	721
18.	Mizoram	336	356
19.	Nagaland	390	232
20.	Sikkim	659	167
21.	Tripura	9963	3567
SUB TOTAL		47279	14634
West			
22.	Goa	27	408
23.	Gujarat	1003597	434593

1	2	3	4
24.	Madhya Pradesh	173226	324075
25.	Maharashtra	3240212	725080
26.	Rajasthan	984817	442974
SUB TOTAL :		5401879	1927130
South			
27.	Andhra Pradesh	3050933	579860
28.	Karnataka	1174630	437320
29.	Kerala	950967	288736
30.	Tamil Nadu	934580	243205
31.	Puducherry	6043	2425
TOTAL :		6117153	1551546
Commercial Banks		11444000	13973319
GRAND TOTAL :		31296760	19622772

Prices of essential commodities

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister convened a meeting of Cabinet in January to consider issues relating to rising prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what were considered as the reasonable and unreasonable reasons for continuous price rise in three months commencing November, 2009; and

(d) what effective steps were suggested and adopted in meeting for controlling and containing the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) to (d) The Government considers issues of national importance including rise in prices of essential commodities from time to time in the Cabinet meetings.

The Government has, so far, taken several measures to control prices of essential commodities, which include:—

- (i) Reducing import duties to zero — for rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and sugar.
- (ii) Reducing import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils.
- (iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under open general licence (OGL).