

(d) the amount proposed to be collected through disinvestment in near future alongwith names of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No such estimates have been made.

(b) The financial years coinciding with the previous tenure of UPA Government are April, 2004 to March, 2009. During this period Rs. 8515.94 crores were collected.

(c) During this tenure of the new Government viz. May, 2009 till date, the Government collected Rs. 12740 crores.

(d) At this point no estimate has been made.

Controlling inflation

63. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that inflation touched 12 months high in December, 2009;
- (b) whether Government is taking any measures to control inflation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be controlled?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based year-on-year inflation was 7.31 per cent (Provisional) in December, 2009, which was the highest for the calendar year.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken several measures to control inflation, 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).
- (iv) Two million tonnes of wheat and one million tonnes of rice have been allocated to States for distribution to retail consumers over and above normal Public Distribution System allocation.
- (v) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except, kabuli chana).
- (vi) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oils and edible oilseeds.

Allowance and fringe benefits for employees of Gramin Banks

64. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Gramin Bank Officers and Employees are not getting allowances and fringe benefits at par with Nationalized Banks although Hon'ble Supreme Court has given an order to give them salary, dearness and other allowances at par with Nationalized Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
The pay and allowances of the Regional Rural Bank (RRB) employees are at par with the corresponding categories of the employees of the Sponsor Banks. As regards the other allowances, these are decided by the individual Sponsor Bank after negotiating the same with their RRB employees. This is in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 31.01.2001 in the Civil Appeal No. 2218 of 1999 of the South Malabar Gramin Bank Vs. Co-ordination Committee, South Malabar Gramin Bank Employees Union and others.

Estimate of fake currency

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

- (a) whether managing magnitude of country's currency in India is immense;
- (b) whether Naik Committee appointed to assess the menace of fake currency estimated that total amount of counterfeit money in circulation in India to tune of Rs. 169000 crore and as per Government's figures during 2006-09, 7.34 lakhs of Rs. 100 notes, 5.76 lakhs of Rs. 500 and 1.09 lakh of Rs. 1000 notes all fakes were seized;
- (c) whether CBI is nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring fake currency cases and other bodies are Department of Revenue Intelligence, etc.; and
- (d) if so, to what extent they have been taken steps to check fake currency notes operation in country?

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

(b) Naik Committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India in 1988 to go into the dynamics of currency management. It estimated the value of notes in circulation (genuine notes) in the year 2000 at Rs. 1,69,000 crore. The Naik Committee did not make any study of fake notes and did not give any figure relating to such notes.

As per the information furnished by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), number of fake notes seized during 2006-09 in denominations of Rs. 100, 500 and 1000 was approximately 4.29 lakhs, 3.29 lakhs and 0.76 lakhs respectively. (Data for 2007-09 is provisional).

(c) Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. Overall coordination and monitoring is done by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Other agencies includes Intelligence Bureau, State Police, Reserve Bank of India and the National Investigation Agency.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head