

monthly honorarium of Rs. 500 to Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) alongwith performance incentives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has objected to the proposal; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir. As per the decision of MSG, the proposal of fixed honorarium for ASHAs was subject to the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The rationale for the proposed change in policy is not justified.

Opposition to GST regime

40. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime;

(b) if so, the essential features thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments may loose their rights to impose taxes and that the Central Government is likely to take away most of the States revenues;

(d) whether some of the State Governments have expressed reservation about the proposed regime; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The features finalized so far include dual GST model, subsuming Central Excise, Service Tax, Value Added Tax etc. into the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST),

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The GST design is under discussion in the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC). Issues raised by States are being discussed and decided upon by the EC and not the Government of India. The EC has released 'First Discussion Paper on GST' in November, 2009 inviting comments of all the stake holders. The comments of Union Government on this discussion paper have been sent to the EC on 1st January, 2010. Copy has also been placed on the web.

Vacancy in nationalised banks

41. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that thousands of posts in nationalized banks are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled?

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

(a) and (b) The details of vacancy position in various nationalised banks are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Full operational and managerial autonomy has been given to the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) by the Government which includes framing of their own "Human Resources" policies and procedure, manpower planning and recruitment. The filling up of the vacancies is an ongoing exercise and the PSBs make their own recruitment as per their needs and requirements.

Statement

Post lying vacant in Public Sector Banks

Name of the Bank	No. of posts posts lying vacant
Allahabad Bank	1980
Andhra Bank	NIL
Bank of Baroda	4265
Bank of India	3947
Bank of Maharashtra	02
Canara Bank	NIL
Central Bank of India	2259
Corporation Bank	NIL
Dena Bank	1731
Indian Bank	322
Indian Overseas Bank	NIL
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1560
Punjab National Bank	2220
Punjab and Sind Bank	815
Syndicate Bank	1776
Union Bank of India	NIL
United Bank of India	NIL
UCO Bank	1300
Vijaya Bank	NIL
IDBI Bank Ltd.	NIL