

- (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.

New Pension Scheme in PSUs

70. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many Public Sector Units (PSUs) have agreed to follow the New Pension Scheme (NPS) in their organisations;
- (b) if so, the details of PSUs which are already under NPS and the PSUs that are going to come under new pension scheme;
- (c) whether the PSUs have agreed for investing superannuation pension funds into the NPS; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) Several corporate entities including PSUs have evinced interest in joining New Pension System (NPS) regulated by the Interim Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- (b) No PSU has formally joined NPS till now.
- (c) and (d) No PSU has agreed for investing superannuation pension funds into NPS.

Servicing of farmer loans

71. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received information from various Nationalized Banks regarding the number of farmers who have been able to service their loans, the expected number of loan accounts and amounts thereof that may have become Non Performing Assets (NPAs);
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) whether any instruction has been issued to the banks for further assisting the farmers who could not able to repay the loan so far in view of the widespread drought in the country?

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

- (a) to (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that no information in this regard has been received by them. The Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines to banks for provision of relief to borrowers in times of natural calamities.

(c) In order to provide relief to borrowers of banks in times of natural calamities, the Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines to banks. The relief measures, inter alia, include the following:—

- (i) conversion of the principal amount outstanding in the crop loans and agriculture term loans as well as accrued interest thereon into term loans;
- (ii) Conversion/rescheduling loans and the interest accrued thereon for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years depending upon the frequency of crop failures/intensity of damage to crops;
- (iii) Fresh crop loans for affected farmers;
- (iv) Treatment of converted/rescheduled agri-loans as 'current dues';
- (v) Non-compounding of interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled etc.;
- (vi) Relaxed security and margin norms;
- (vii) Provision of consumption loans to agriculturists whose crops have been damaged; and
- (viii) Moratorium period of at least one year, while restructuring.

These measures are initiated by the banks through the District Consultative Committee and the State Level Bankers Committee Mechanism in times of a natural calamity.

Compensation to be paid by Banks

72. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Banking Codes and Standard Board of India, has issued guidelines providing for compensation to be paid by the Banks for undue delay in clearing cheques, non return of deed and other papers even after full payment of loan and other delays in Banking transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines are mandatory for both the Public Sector and Private Sector Banks;

(d) whether these guidelines have come into force; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (e) The Banking Codes and Standard Board of India (BCSBI) has been registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and membership of BCSBI is voluntary and at present 83 scheduled banks — public, private, foreign, co-operative and regional rural banks are its members. In July, 2006, BCSBI, in collaboration with Indian Banks' Association (IBA) evolved a "Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers" (Code) which sets minimum standards