

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

Offices of the banks. Additional security features have also been incorporated in the bank notes in 2005 to make counterfeiting very difficult. To strengthen the security of bank notes further, incorporation of latest security features is underway. A High Level Committee headed by the Union Home Secretary comprising officials from central agencies and other senior police officials has been constituted to monitor and draw a comprehensive strategy to combat FICN. Similar bodies have also been set up in the States. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Search and seizure operation by Income Tax Department

66. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax assesseees as on 1st March of 2007, 2008 and 2009 in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount of Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax collected in these States during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(c) whether the Income Tax Department has conducted search and seizure operations in these States during last three years; and

(d) if so, the details of these operations with amount of money recovered through these search and seizure operations in these States during last three years so far as Personal Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total number of assesseees including Personal Income tax and Corporate Income Tax assesseees as on 31st March are as under:—

| Year | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 1926615 | 1709538 | 1785417 |
| Gujarat | 2572067 | 2758820 | 2953024 |
| Karnataka | 1796614 | 1787481 | 1891702 |
| Maharashtra | 5827391 | 5938895 | 6084570 |
| Tamil Nadu | 2507793 | 2572098 | 2590779 |

(b) The total amount of Personal Income Tax collected is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

| Financial Year | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4860 | 7100 | 4679 |
| Gujarat | 4129 | 5717 | 4056 |