

(CPI) for industrial workers and CPI for rural workers are used for taking decisions during the assessment of inflation in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that different norms have been fixed for the evaluation of all the above price indices;

(c) if so, the norms fixed for evaluation of each price index separately; and

(d) the average annual rate evaluated in the above price indices during 2009-10?

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

(a) There are five main series of prices indices compiled at the national level. Out of these, wholesale price index has an economy wide coverage. Since November 14, 2009, it is released by DIIPP on monthly basis for all 435 commodities; weekly reporting is being done only for primary commodities and fuel group. Of the other four indices viz. Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL), Consumer Price Index for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) and Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME), CPI-UNME has been discontinued since April, 2008. These are main indicators of the average price movement over time of a fixed basket of goods and services, and assessment of inflation in the country.

(b) and (c) The Indian Government has taken WPI as an indicator of the rate of inflation in the economy. The CPI-IW purports to measure the temporal change in the retail prices of fixed basket of goods and services being consumed by the target group *i.e.* an average working class family and thus, is an important indicator of the retail price situation in the country. It is mainly used for the determination of dearness allowances being paid to Central/State Government employees as also to the workers in the industrial sectors besides fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments. The CPI-AL and CPI-RL are used for fixation and revision of minimum for agriculture labour. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices utilizes these indices for fixation/revision of support prices of Kharif and Rabi crops whereas the Ministry of Human Resource Development has evinced keen interest in CPI-RL for working out cost inflation in the cooking cost norms under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. These indices are also helpful in measuring the inflationary trend in the country.

(d) The average annual inflation rates of WPI, CPI-AL and CPI-RL for 2009-10 are 3.8% (provisional), 13.9% and 13.8% respectively. For CPI-IW, average inflation of April-February, 2009-10 is 11.9%.

Performance of NPS

3439. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of New Pension Scheme (NPS) for the informal sector so far;

(b) how many persons have subscribed to the NPS so far, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to expand the NPS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
(a) and (b) The performance of New Pension System (NPS) as reflected by the Points of Presence (POPs) and their Service Providers (SPs) in respect of the informal sector, as on 16.4.2010, is as follows:—

(i)	Total Points of Presence	—	28
(ii)	Total Service Providers	—	2931
(iii)	Total fund accumulation	—	Rs. 10.08 crores.

Out of a total 4,746 subscribers, as on 16.4.2010, a total of 1,248 persons have subscribed to the NPS in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) To encourage the people from the unorganised sector to voluntarily save for their retirement and to lower the cost of operations of the NPS for such subscribers, Government has announced a '*Swavalamban*' initiative in the Budget 2010-11, whereby, the Government will contribute a sum of Rs. 1,000 per year to each NPS account opened in the year 2010-11. The initiative, '*Swavalamban*' will be available for persons who join NPS, with a minimum contribution of Rs. 1,000 and a maximum contribution of Rs. 12,000 per annum during the financial year 2010-11. The scheme will be available for another three years. For the purpose, an amount of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed for the year 2010-11, to benefit about 10 lakh NPS subscribers of the unorganised sector. The interim Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is also promoting the NPS through media campaigns, advertisements, workshops, seminars and press conferences etc. in all parts of the country.

Computerization in RRBs

3440. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of computerization in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), bank-wise;
- (b) the percentage of Core Bank Solution so far implemented in RRBs, bank-wise;
- (c) the share of expenditure so far incurred by each RRB and respective sponsoring banks for Core Bank solution; and
- (d) the difference of capital cost, recurring cost and non-recurring cost to be borne by RRB for Core Bank solution sponsoring bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):
The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as on