

(c) Upon due consideration of the representations, the Government has not found it feasible and economically justifiable to accept the proposal for levying any windfall or excess profit tax on oil companies.

Performance of Nationalised Banks

3416. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study to assess the impact of private sector banking institutions on the Nationalised Banks in terms of their profitability has been conducted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the changes being proposed by Government to improve performance of the Nationalised Banks so that they can compete well with private banks?

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

(a) to (c) No detailed analysis on profitability of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) *vis-a-vis* private sector banks has been carried out by the Government. However, the Government has already put in place a mechanism to monitor the overall performance of PSBs on the basis of on 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals (SOI)' submitted by them on various performance parameters such as growth in deposits and advances, advances to priority sector, Non-Performing Asset (NPA) Ratios, Capital Adequacy Ratio, Net Interest Margin, Return on Assets, net profit, etc. The performance of PSBs is monitored at regular intervals and these banks are appropriately advised whenever and whenever required. The present analysis of data on profitability/performance of banks by banks group, for April-December, 2009 *vis-a-vis* the corresponding period of previous years reveals that while the net profit of PSBs was 18.6% more than the net profit for the corresponding period of the previous year, the corresponding increase was 10% for new private banks and negative for old private banks and foreign banks.

Consumer price inflation

3417. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumer price inflation continues to remain at a higher level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of the reasons for the high level on inflation; and

(d) the details of steps taken, if any, to contain inflation?

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

(a) and (b) The year-on-year inflation trends, based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) and its foods inflation from February, 2009 to February, 2010 are indicated in Table below:—

	Weight %	Feb. -09	Mar. -09	Apr. -09	May -09	June -09	July -09	Aug. -09	Sep. -09	Oct. -09	Nov. -09	Dec. -09	Jan. -10	Feb. -10
CPI-IW (All)	100.0	9.6	8.0	8.7	8.6	9.3	11.9	11.7	11.6	11.5	13.5	15.0	16.2	14.9
CPI-IW (Food)	46.2	13.0	10.6	10.4	11.7	12.2	14.7	13.7	13.5	13.8	17.6	21.3	19.2	17.3

(c) The year-on-year inflation of CPI-IW remained high during July, 2009 to February, 2010. This high-level inflation in CPI-IW is mainly due to double-digit inflation in food group, which has a high weight of food group (46.2%) in the commodity basket of CPI-IW.

(d) The Government has taken several measures to control inflation, which include:—

- (i) Reducing import duties of 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). This has since been extended upto 31.12.10.
- (iv) Levy obligation removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.
- (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.

In addition, a Crore Group of Chief Ministers and concerned Central Ministers has been constituted on 15th March, 2010 to discuss issues related to prices of essential commodities with Ministry of Agriculture as nodal agency.

Monetary measures taken by RBI:

The Reserve Bank of India has announced in its Annual Policy Statement for 2010-11 to increase the Repo Rate by 25 basis points from 5.00 per cent to 5.25 per cent and the Reverse Repo rate by 25 basis points from 3.50 per cent to 3.75 per cent with immediate effect. It has been decided to increase the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 25 basis points from 5.75 per cent to 6.00 per cent *w.e.f.* fortnight beginning April 24, 2010.

Taxes levied in the country

†3418. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.