

maximizing oil seeds and pulse production of Rs. 106.82 crores for increasing production of oil seeds and pulses in Bundelkhand by Japan International Cooperative Society;

(b) if so, the current status of approval of this project and the reason of delay for such a long period; and

(c) by when the amount would be released after giving approval to this proposal and the expected time period thereof?

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

(a) The Department of Economic Affairs received a proposal for 'Maximizing Oilseeds and Pulses Production in Bundelkhand Region' of Madhya Pradesh, under the Grant-in-aid and technical cooperation programme of the Government of Japan, with the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture, in July 2006. The name of the project has since been revised as 'Project for maximization of Soybean production in Madhya Pradesh'.

(b) The Government of Japan conveyed its approval for acceptance of the said proposal in April 2008. The formalities regarding finalization of terms and conditions of the project are being worked out between the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Ministry of Agriculture and JICA in terms of standard norms and procedure.

(c) No monetary grant or release of funds is involved under the scheme. After completion of necessary formalities, JICA would only provide technical assistance and their experts.

Excise Duty evasion by small scale companies

2437. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large evasion of excise duty are being done by small scale companies which are availing the benefits available to small scale units in the states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States;

(b) whether Government is aware that these companies are charging excise duty on their products despite the excise duty exemption;

(c) whether Government has any plan to curb these malpractices especially being done by the pharmaceutical companies and corrupt officers of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?"

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):

(a) Some cases pertaining to evasion of central excise duty by small scale companies have been detected. The details are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Nos of cases	Amount of evasion involved
2008-09	Nil	Nil
2009-10	4	2.23
2010-11(Upto 30th June, 2010)	Nil	Nil

(b) One case pertaining to charging excise duty on the product despite availing the duty exemption has been detected. The details are given in table below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Nos of cases	Name of Company	Amount of evasion involved
2008-09	1	M/s Omid Engg. (P) Ltd., Gagret, H.P.	0.19

(c) and (d) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), has penalized companies found selling formulations at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA. The details of such companies are available at their website nppaindia@nic.in. NPPA has issued 8 notices during May to July, 2010 demanding Rs. 38.55 Crores from 4 companies in J&K towards overcharged amount and interest in respect of excise duty charged from the consumer but actually refunded to them.

Opening of SBI ATMS

2438. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: