

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in cheque truncation system processing/service charges at the rate of rupee one per cheque (0.50 paisa from the presenting bank and 0.50 paisa from the drawee bank) is recovered from banks.

The MICR cheque processing centres levy cheque processing charges from member banks at the rate of rupees two per cheque (rupee 1.00 from the presenting bank and rupee 1.00 from the drawee bank).

Licences for opening banks

2985. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and other industry associations have demanded grant of licences to them to setup banks; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech 2010-11, it has been mentioned that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be considering giving some additional licenses to private sector players. Accordingly, RBI studied the international practices and examined their experience with licensing of 12 new private sector banks consequent to guidelines issued in 1993 and 2001. Based on the above study, RBI prepared and placed a discussion paper on its website inviting comments/feedback on certain aspects from the stake holders and public on 11.08.2010. Discussions with stakeholders were held on October 7 and 8, 2010. The comments/suggestions received and views of the stakeholders are being examined by RBI after which final guidelines would be issued.

Excise duty on transparent fuel

2986. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central excise duty on Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) is less than petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as air travellers are more affluent than users of two wheelers and diesel; and

(c) if not, the duty rates is Rs./litre for ATF, diesel and petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Sir, currently Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) attracts an excise duty of 8% ad valorem while Petrol and Diesel (intended for sale without a brand name) attract excise duty of Rs. 14.35 per litre and Rs. 4.60 per litre respectively including additional excise duty of Rs. 2 per litre on both. The duty on petrol includes