

- b. if so, whether its width should be fixed or variable under specified conditions
- c. if so, what instruments/mechanisms may be necessary to enable the corridor to function efficiently.

Circulation of fake currency

817. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fake currency is in circulation at large scale in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during last six months the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has secured more than 1500 fake notes running into lakhs of value; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to check the circulation of fake notes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) No estimates are available on fake currency notes in circulation. RBI has informed that forged notes detected in the banking channel during the last six months *i.e.* from April, 2010 to September, 2010 are as follows:

Denomination	Pieces	Value (in Rs.)
Rs. 10	41	410
Rs. 20	60	1,200
Rs. 50	5,073	2,53,650
Rs. 100	63,224	63,22,400
Rs. 500	1,15,946	5,79,73,000
Rs. 1000	23,594	2,35,94,000
TOTAL	2,07,938	8,81,44,660

(c) The steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of 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. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation as the Nodal Agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases. The RBI has also strengthened the mechanism for detection of counterfeit notes by the Banks.

Revival of Land Development Banks in Maharashtra

†818. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal from Maharashtra for revival of Land Development Banks in the State;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received for the revival of the banks during the past three years, location-wise and the number of proposals cleared and lying pending for clearance; and

(c) by when the pending proposals would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India (Gol) had constituted a Task Force (under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan) in January 2005 to suggest an implementable action plan for reviving the Long-Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) in the country. The Task Force in its report suggested a financial package for LTCCS in the country subject to legal and institutional reforms. The Task Force *inter alia* also recommended that only Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (PCARDB) (or branch of the unitary structure) whose gross interest margin is equal to or greater than 50% of its operating expenses and whose recovery is equal to or more than 50% of the demand may be considered eligible to receive financial assistance under the package directly. Many LTCCS entities in the country would not be in a position to fulfill the eligibility criteria suggested by the Task Force.

Gol had requested for the comments of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Task Force for LTCCS. The Government of Maharashtra, alongwith other State Governments, had commented/suggested on the recommendations of the Task Force.

The Government had approved the Revival Package for Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure (LTCCS) with a total outlay of Rs. 3,070 crore. However, a Task Force was constituted to examine the impact of the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 and the implementation of short Term Cooperative Credit Structure (STCCS) package in the 25 implementing States on the LTCCS. The Task Force has submitted its report which has been accepted by the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.