

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, they do not want any debate in the House ...*(Interruptions)*... They are coming into the Well of the House ...*(Interruptions)*... They do not want to hear the Government ...*(Interruptions)*... They do not want any debate ...*(Interruptions)*... My request is that this matter can be discussed here ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the issue be discussed ...*(Interruptions)*... We are ready for discussion ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want JPC ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What should be done in the street is being done here. The Chair has no option but to adjourn the House till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Tightening of Home Loan norms

*281. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a decision to tighten the norms for home loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sharp rise in the asset prices in a short time was the main reason for making the home loan norms tight; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has announced the following steps in the second quarter review of the monetary policy on November 2, 2010 in connection with housing loans:

(i) At present, there is no regulatory ceiling on the loan to value (LTV) ratio in respect of banks' housing loan exposures. In order to prevent excessive leveraging, it has been decided to prescribe that the LTV ratio in respect of housing loans should not exceed 80 per cent.

- (ii) To increase the risk weight for residential housing loans of Rs. 75 lakh and above, irrespective of the LTV ratio, to 125 per cent.
- (iii) To increase the standard asset provisioning by commercial banks for all teaser loans to 2 per cent.

(c) and (d) Sharp rise in the asset prices was one of the important concerns in the Second Quarter Review of Monetary Policy by RBI. One of the risk factors on domestic macroeconomic outlook going forward as indicated in the Reserve Bank's Second Quarter Review of Monetary Policy 2010-11 (November 2, 2010) was that asset prices in India, as in many other emerging market economies (EMEs), had risen sharply. The equity market was close to its previous all time peak level. Residential property prices in metropolitan cities had gone beyond the pre-crisis peak level. Gold prices were ruling at an all-time high level. Although the income levels of households and earnings of corporates in India had continued to rise, a sharp rise in asset prices in such a short time causes concern.

Measures to discourage people from using tobacco

*282. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a survey has been conducted by the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) regarding use of tobacco;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some of the States/UTs namely, Punjab, Goa and Chandigarh, have the lowest tobacco user rate;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government is planning to extend the measures for encouraging low use of tobacco to other States;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the measures Government will take to deter people from using tobacco products?