

demand levels consistent with capacity of the economy to maintain its growth without provoking price rise. Accordingly, the Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate increased to 6 per cent and 5 per cent respectively on September 16, 2010 from a level of 5.75 per cent and 4.50 per cent respectively. Further, RBI raised the Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate to 6.25 per cent and 5.25 per cent respectively in its Second Quarter Policy Review on November 2, 2010.

Headline WPI inflation was 11 per cent in April 2010, which has come down to 8.58 per cent in October, 2010. This decline is a result of significant deceleration in food inflation and recent measures taken by Government.

#### **Reduction in size of coins**

2200. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to reduce the size of certain coins in order to reduce their cost of production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the new series of coins are easily recognized by visually handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) to (c) The Government had constituted a High Level Committee to suggest rationalization of denominations of coins/currency notes to be minted/printed in future. One of the reason for constituting the Committee was to address the difficulties faced by the public, particularly visually impaired, in distinguishing coins of different denominations especially Re. 1 and Rs. 2 coins. In its report submitted to the Government, the Committee has, *inter-alia*, recommended.

(i) The coins of denomination of 25 paise and below may be withdrawn from circulation.

(ii) Sizes of coins of 50 paise, Re. 1 and Rs. 2 may be reduced. The 50 paise coin may be minted in 25 paise size, Rs. 1 in 50 paise size and Rs. 2 in Re. 1 size.

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government.