

(d) what is the outcome of the discussion held with the State Governments and whether any road map has been prepared for the banks to open branches in various parts of the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):  
(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India periodically meets with the State Governments having unbanked blocks. In July, 2009, 129 unbanked blocks (91 in North East Region and 38 in non North East States) were identified. At present, there are 71 unbanked blocks in the country, of which 70 are in North East Region while 1 is in Jammu & Kashmir State. There is no State in the country where banks are not in operation. The State Governments have also been requested to assist in providing necessary infrastructure, connectivity, security support to the Banks to enable them to provide banking services in the unbanked blocks.

#### **Recovery of undeclared goods from celebrities/actors**

198. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of celebrities and film-stars have landed themselves in the customs net while returning from foreign jaunts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount of undeclared goods recovered from these celebrities/actors and duty/penalty imposed on each of them during the last two years;

(c) whether confiscation of such goods is due to ignorance of various customs rules in the country;

(d) if so, whether Customs Department would provide fact sheet of 'Do's and Don'ts' to passengers along with boarding cards about the items or goods they can bring, declaration about valuables, currency etc.; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):  
(a) and (b) Yes, it is a fact that Customs have made seizures from few celebrities and film stars while returning from foreign jaunts and the details of duty/penalty imposed on each of them during the last two years are enclosed as Statement (See below).)

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The Government has prominently displayed in Customs Area at the International Airports the notice regarding eligible baggage allowance applicable for various categories of passengers including restriction and provisions for non-compliance etc. In the 'Arrival Card' (To be filled up by the International Passengers upon arrival in India) the details of provisions of Customs Act, 1962 and Penal Provision thereon for non-declaration etc. have also been clearly indicated.

**Statement**

*Details of undeclared goods recovered from celebrities/  
actors and duty/penalty imposed on them*

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Number of cases	Value of goods seized	Duty involved	Fine /Penalty
2009-10	1	0.44	0.16	0.12/0.05
2010-11	1	0.60	0.14	0.09/0.04
2011-12 (Upto June, 11)	03	0.81	Duty, Fine/Penalty is to be quantified.	

**DTAA with other countries**

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

- (a) the countries with which India has Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA);
- (b) whether Government proposes to sign Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEA) with certain countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to begin search for trail of money stashed in secret bank accounts in tax havens abroad?

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

- (a) The Government of India has Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with 80