

surrender their registration. Exact number of such assesses in each category is not known as such data is not maintained.

(c) Yes, there are instances where service taxes collected from consumers have not been deposited with Government.

(d) If any defaulter service providers are identified, then cases are booked against them, followed by show cause notice and adjudication proceedings. Wherever such instances are noticed, action for recovery under Section 73 A of the Finance Act, 1994 is coupled with the offence of tax evasion. The provisions of Section 75, 76 and 78 of the Finance Act, 1994, provide for imposition of interest and penalty.

Improvement in functioning of Grameen Banks

1594. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Grameen banks functioning as on date; and

(b) whether after merger there is actual improvement in the functioning of Grameen banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) As on date there are 82 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the country.

(b) The performance of Regional Rural Banks in respect of deposits mobilization, credit dispensation, recovery, NPA, profit/losses for the last four years are as under:

(Amount Rs. in Cr)

Description	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*
1	2	3	4	5
No. of RRBs	91	86	82	82
Deposits	99093	120189	145035	165800
Year on year growth %	19.18	21.29	20.67	14.32
Loans & Advances	58984	67802	82819	101293
Year on year growth %	21.64	14.95	22.15	22.31

1	2	3	4	5
Recovery (%)	80.84	77.85	80.09	83.01
Net NPAs (%)	3.36	1.81	1.80	1.72
No. of RRBs in Profit	82	80	79	76
Amount of Profit	1083	1371	1890	1842
No. of RRBs in Loss	8	6	3	6
Amount of Loss	56	36	6	57
Accumulated Loss	2624	2300	1775	1529

Source -NABARD * Data provisional and unaudited.

Respite from high inflation

1595. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there appears to be no respite from high inflation in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) As per First Quarter Review 2011-12 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released in July, 2011, inflation continues to be a concern. Headline Wholesale Price Index (WPI) year-on-year inflation was 9.4 per cent in June 2011 as compared to 9.06 per cent in May 2011 and 9.7 per cent in April, 2011. Current softening in global commodity prices may, provide some respite in the short-run. Non-food manufactured products inflation remains significantly higher than the long-term average of about 4 per cent. As per the RBI assessment, price pressures are expected to persist through July-September, 2011 and then moderate in the later part of 2011-12.

(b) Measures taken to contain prices of essential commodities include; import prices reduced to zero on rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and onion, ban on export of non-basmati rice, edible oils (except coconut oil and forest based oil) and pulses (except Kabuli chana and