includes Primary Food Articles and Manufactured Food Products, has significantly declined to 7.97 per cent from its peak of 20.22 per cent in February 2010.

(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 organic pulses upto a maximum of 10000 tonnes per year), futures trading suspended in rice, urad and tur by the Forward Market Commission, stock limit orders extended in the case of pulses, paddy and rice up to 30 September, 2011, duty under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for Skimmed Milk Powder (SMP) reduced from 15% to 5% for import upto an aggregate of 10000 metric tonnes in a financial year, import of 30000 tonnes of Milk Powder and 15000 tonnes of Milk Fat at zero duty allowed to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) during 2010-11 under TRQ, reduction in custom duty on crude oil and import duty on petrol and diesel.

As part of the monetary policy review stance, the RBI has taken suitable steps with 11 consecutive increases in policy rates and related measures to moderate demand to levels consistent with the capacity of the economy to maintain its growth without provoking price rise. As per the most recent announcement of the RBI on 26 July, 2011, the repo rate and reverse repo rate have been revised to 8.0 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively.

(c) Some of the medium-term plans to address food inflation has been announced in the Budget 2011-12 includes allocation of Rs. 400 crore for program of 'Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern Region' for increasing crop productivity and strengthening of market linkages; allocation of Rs. 300 crore to bring 60,000 hectares under oil palm plantation, by integrating the farmers with the markets provision of Rs. 300 crore has been made to promote higher production of nutri-cereals; The National Mission for Protein Supplements has been announced in 2011-12 with an allocation of Rs. 300 crore to take up activities to promote animal based protein production through livestock development, dairy farming, piggery, goat rearing and fisheries in selected blocks.

Rights Issue of SBI

3013. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) is proposing to come out with a Rights Issue;

(b) if so, the details of SBI's proposal and by when the Rights Issue will hit the market; and

(c) the amount SBI is likely to receive through the Issue with discounted price fixed by the lead managers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Government has received a proposal from State Bank of India for raising capital through various options *viz.* Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)/Preferential Allotment Route/Follow-on Public Offer (FPO) / Rights Issue. The proposal is under examination.

Life insurance business from rural area

3014. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any percentage of life insurance business has been obtained from rural-based persons which has been fixed as a "Priority Sector" on the lines of State-owned banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fixed quantum of business by each of the State-owned insurance unit was generated; and

(d) whether any pre-determined periodical monitoring system exists for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that the requirement of rural business for life insurer as stipulated in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural or Social Sector) Regulations, 2002 are as under:

1. seven per cent in the first financial year
2. nine per cent in the second financial year
3. twelve per cent in the third financial year
4. fourteen per cent in the fourth financial year
5. sixteen per cent in the fifth financial year