

Launch of Innovation Fund

675. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to launch an 'Innovation Fund' worth around \$ 1 billion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how does the proposed fund would be assist innovators in various fields of business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: (a) to (c) The National Innovation Council is establishing India Inclusive Innovation Fund, as a means of financing 'Inclusive innovation' directed at benefiting India's common citizens. The Fund will be aimed at backing innovation focused on the core developmental needs of India's 'bottom 500 million'. In doing so, the Fund will generate both social and commercial returns.

Pension disparity in UBI

676. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that senior bank employees of the Union Bank of India (UBI) are ignored and they have been deprived of revision in their pension along with wage revision in comparison to the serving employees in Assam though their contribution, while in service, led to the growth of the banks they served;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to eliminate the existing inequalities and disparity in the matter of pension of the retired bank employees thereby to allow them live their life with dignity and self respect; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Union Bank of India has reported that the pension is paid to the pensioners as per Union Bank of India (Employees') Pension Regulations, 1995, in terms of the settlement with the Workmen Unions and Joint Note with Officers' Organizations signed by the Indian Banks' Association on behalf of member Banks in April, 2010 in respect of wage revision including pension.

Per capita income in the country

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

- (a) whether as per the last financial data the per capita income in India has risen to Rs. 50,000 mark;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the nominal per capita income due to inflationary conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per the Advance estimate of National Income, 2011-12 released by Central Statistics Office (CSO) on February 7, 2012, the per capita income in nominal terms is estimated to be Rs. 60,972 in 2011-12. The per capita income in real terms (at 2004-05 prices) is estimated at Rs. 38,005.

(c) The estimates in nominal terms include both real income as well as inflation component.

Filling up of backlog vacancies

678. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether provision inserted *vide* the 81st Amendment to the Constitution is being followed in the Ministry for all groups *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- (b) whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for not following the procedure; and
- (d) the details of backlog vacancies filled during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger of Grade IV with Grade III in IIS

679. SHRI PRAMOD KUREEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry accepted the recommendation No. 7.22.4 of the Sixth Central Pay Commission *i.e.*, merger of Grade IV with Grade III of Indian Information Service, Group-B, effective from 1 January, 2006;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry issued any suitable order to facilitate the cadre controlling authority *i.e.*, Ministry of I and B to give the financial benefit of merger to the incumbents;
- (c) whether the Ministry received any proposal for an order to award merger benefits to incumbents with regard to the aforesaid recommendations from the Ministry of I and B; and
- (d) if so, when the proposal was received by the Ministry and what was the disposal decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Orders relating to merger of Senior Grade of IIS Group B and Junior Grade of IIS Group 'B' were issued by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* Order No. 84/2009-IIS dated 23rd September, 2009. These orders have since been superseded *vide* Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Order No. 19/2011-IIS dated 1st April, 2011.