

(c) the number of non-Banking financial institutions, which have applied so far for starting White Label ATMs across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) placed draft guidelines on deployment of White Label ATMs on its website for public comments till March 6, 2012. The draft guidelines *inter-alia* provide that non bank entities can set up own and operate ATM to accelerate the growth and penetration of ATMs in the country. Such ATMs would be in the nature of White Label ATMs and would provide ATM services to customers of all banks.

Direct transfer of subsidy to farmers

668. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of fertilizer quality especially the declining response of agricultural productivity to increased fertilizer usage was a part of the Finance Minister's Budget Speech on July, 2009;

(b) whether the Budget 2009 proposed making much needed move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime leading to direct transfer of subsidy to the farmers;

(c) whether the system has been implemented;

(d) if so, since when and if not, by which date it will become functional; and

(e) the selection criterion decided upon by way of which the farmers will get a coupon to buy fertilizers from the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Budget 2009-10 Speech of the Finance Minister consisted of following on the Nutrient Based Subsidy regime in the fertilizer sector:

"Fertilizer subsidy

In the context of the nation's food security, the declining response of agricultural productivity to increased fertilizer usage in the country is a matter of concern. To ensure balanced application of fertilizers, the Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current product pricing regime. It will lead to availability of innovative fertilizer products in the market at reasonable prices. This unshackling of the fertilizer manufacturing sector is expected to attract fresh investments in this sector. In due course it is also intended to move to a system of direct transfer of subsidy to the farmers."

(c) and (d) The Government has implemented Nutrient Based Subsidy

regime (NBS) Policy on decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers with effect from 1st April, 2010.

- (e) No decision has yet been taken by the Government.

Rising cases of economic offences

669. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in economic offences in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether Government is taking steps to check such offences; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The data indicating the present trend of economic offences relating to various, wings of the Ministry of Finance is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Appropriate steps are taken by the Government from time to time taking into account the *modus operandi* of economic offences committed. So far as evasion of direct taxes are concerned, the Income Tax Department takes several punitive and deterrent steps to unearth unaccounted money and curb tax evasion which *inter alia* include scrutiny of returns, surveys, search and seizure action, etc. Information Technology has also been used in a big way in collection, collation and dissemination of taxpayer information. Further, the Income Tax Department has implemented Computer Assisted Selection of Scrutiny (CASS) wherein returns are selected for scrutiny on the basis of comparison of the information gathered from various sources with the information available and declarations made by the assesses in the return of income. A Directorate of Income Tax, Criminal Investigation has also been created to exclusively deal with financial and taxation aspects of criminal activities.

So far as evasion of indirect taxes are concerned, the field formations of Central Board of Excise and Customs maintain a close watch for possible cases of duty evasion. They collect intelligence/information of duty evasion and book cases against erring companies/assesseees, as per prescribed procedure under the respective Act/rules.

With regard to economic offences relating to capital market, SEBI maintains constant vigil on the market, and in case of any abnormality, takes appropriate action against the concerned entities. SEBI has put in place systems and practices to ensure safe, transparent and efficient market so as to protect market integrity. The systems instituted include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance, various limits on positions, margin requirements,