

(c) and (d) A proposal from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting relating to grant of higher grade pay of Rs. 4600/- to Jr. Grade Officers of IIS Group 'B' who were in the pre-revised scale of Rs. 5500-9000/- was received in the Ministry of Finance on 4th August, 2010. The same was considered but not agreed to as it was not in consonance with the provisions of Ministry of Finance OM No. 1/1/2008-IC dated 13th November, 2009.

Transfer of profits from oil PSUs

680. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has transferred the profit and tax payers' money from oil PSUs such as ONGC, GAIL and Oil India, to other loss-making oil companies without the consent of minority shareholders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the action of Government could be constructed as being violative of minority shareholder rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. While the Government directs the Upstream companies such as ONGC, OIL and GAIL to offer discount to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies on sale of crude produced from nominated fields, no part of profits/tax payer's money is transferred from Upstream Companies to the Oil Marketing Companies.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

†681. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the meeting of Cabinet Committee held recently a decision of capital disinvestment from public sector undertakings has been taken in principle;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the proposed utilisation of the proceeds obtained through such disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) On 01.03.2012, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs decided to enable Department of Disinvestment to respond to buy-back proposals of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as well as sale of shares of one CPSE to another CPSE.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The disinvestment proceeds will be deposited in National Investment Fund (NIF) from April 2012 to March 2013 and will be available in full towards capital expenditure in respect of identified social sector schemes.

Controlling of inflation

682. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of .FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the inflation has become unaffordable for the common man;
- (b) if so, the reasons for inability to control it; and
- (c) whether the rise in the prices will be controlled soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Current financial year started with a headline WPI inflation of 9.74%, which briefly touched double digit in September 2011. The year-on-year headline inflation in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) moderated to 7.74% in December 2011 and further to 6.55% in January 2012, before reaching at 6.95% in February 2012. Inflation for 31 essential commodities (which include pulses, cereals, milk, fish, meat, edible oils and kerosene oils etc.), after reaching a peak of 24.17 % in January 2010 also declined to 7.09% in February 2012.

(b) and (c) The factors contributing to this inflationary situation during this period include (i) higher primary articles prices driven by vegetables, egg, meat and fish due to changing dietary pattern of consumers, (ii) increasing global commodity prices especially metals and chemical prices, which ultimately lead to higher domestic manufactured prices and (iii) persistently high international crude petroleum prices.

The Government monitors the price situation regularly as price stability remains high on its agenda. Fiscal and administrative measures have been taken to contain price rise of essential commodities. Reserve Bank of India has also adopted a monetary policy to contain inflation and inflationary expectations. Inflation has already started showing some moderation in the last three months due to these steps.

Loss of custom duty due to foreign registered aircrafts

†683: SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that aircrafts registered in foreign countries are being operated in the country and its investigation has been initiated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.