

Level Environment Expert Appraisal Authority. The notification prescribes undertaking of environmental impact assessment study and conduct of public hearing. Municipal Solid Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 2000 have, *inter alia*, suggested technologies for solid waste management. Ministry of Urban Development is implementing the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the project eligible of JNNURM assistance include environmental improvement and solid waste management.

Levy of Local Conservation Cess on Tour Operators in Wildlife Areas

2049. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether to address conflicting issues of wildlife *versus* tourism, Government has issued certain guidelines to develop and monitor the fragile ecosystem and cope with tourist pressure with emphasis on generation of local livelihood;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is proposed to involve locals in eco-tourism strategies while developing such projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is proposed to levy certain local conservation cess on private tour operators in these areas to garner resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) a Committee has been constituted for finalizing the guidelines relating to eco-tourism in and around Protected Areas, which, *inter alia* includes welfare of local people.

Buy back of PSUs Shares

2050. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to allow cash-rich Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to buy back of the Centre's equity shares thereby Government can make up for the shortfall in the ₹40,000/- crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal; and

(b) if so, the details of PSUs selected for the purpose and how much is expected to accrue from each of these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) On 01st March, 2012, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs decided to take the economic reforms forward and accordingly :

- (i) enabled Department of Disinvestment to respond to the proposals of CPSEs, in case they decide to resort to buyback to restructure their capital base commensurate to the size of their operations on the pattern of private companies; and
- (ii) provided CPSEs a third choice for investing their surplus cash in the shares of other CPSEs through Department of Disinvestment, in addition to bank deposits and/or mutual funds which were allowed by Department of Public Enterprises O.M. No. DPE/11/47/2006-Fin. dated 31st August, 2007.

These measures were not to make up any shortfall in the disinvestment target.

- (b) The question does not arise. These were only enabling provisions.

**Impact of Rising Interest Rate on Exporter and
Manufacturing Sector**

2051. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major problem being faced by exporters and manufacturing sector is continuous rise in interests rates, which RBI is resorting to control inflation;

(b) whether RBI would think about cutting down interest rates as inflation cannot be exclusively addressed by insulating it from growth and job creation;

(c) whether continuous increase in interest rates may slowdown in Economic growth and increase in equal monthly instalments; and

(d) whether this situation may contribute significantly towards already rising Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of Banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) In order to adjust the policy rates to levels consistent with the current growth moderation, the Reserve Bank of India, in its latest annual Monetary Policy Statement, has reduced the repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 50 basis points. The repo rate, effective from April 17, 2012 will accordingly drop from 8.5 to 8.0 per cent. As regards Scheduled Commercial Banks, in terms of new guidelines, banks are independent to determine their actual lending rate on loans and advances with reference to base rate.

(d) Higher interest rate is one of the several factors contributing towards Non-performing assets (NPAs) of the banks. As on March 31st 2011, the share of gross NPAs