

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सभापति जी, उनको यह विषय उठाने दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the wish of the House for Question Hour to proceed?
...(Interruptions)... The House is adjourned till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at eighteen minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR) in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Revised fiscal deficit target

*21. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

- (a) whether the fiscal deficit for the April-December, 2011 period reached 92.3 per cent of the full-year target;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has revised its fiscal deficit target for the current financial year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps that are being taken to reduce the fiscal deficit for this year and the next?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The fiscal deficit was Rs. 3,81,012 crore for the period upto December, 2011, which was 92.3 per cent of the budgeted fiscal deficit of Rs. 4,12,817 crore;

(c) to (e) The fiscal deficit has been estimated at Rs. 5,13,590 crore in BE 2012-2013. The fiscal deficit target for the current financial year will be reassessed after mid-year review depending on the pace of expenditure and resource position of the Government.

(f) The Government has reverted to the path of fiscal consolidation with gradual exit from the expansionary measures in a calibrated manner. The reduction in fiscal deficit from 5.9 per cent of GDP estimated in RE 2011-12 to 5.1 per cent of GDP in BE 2012-13 is designed with a mix of reduction in total expenditure as percentage of GDP and improvement in gross tax revenue as percentage of GDP. Government has taken the following steps to contain the fiscal deficit:

- (i) In the current financial year, Government has imposed economy measures like rationalization of expenditure and optimization of available resources with a view to improve the macroeconomic environment. This include 10% mandatory cut on Non Plan expenditure in the current financial year, ban on creation of Plan and Non Plan posts, restrictions on foreign travel, restrictions on re-appropriation of funds, strict observance of discipline in fiscal transfers to States, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies, etc.
- (ii) Government has also proposed to introduce 'Medium-term Expenditure Framework Statement', setting forth a three-year rolling target for expenditure indicators with a view to undertaking a de-novo exercise for allocating resources for prioritised schemes and weeding out others that have outlived their utility. It would also encourage efficiencies in expenditure management.
- (iii) Government also endeavours to restrict the expenditure on Central subsidies. Similar steps are expected to be continued in the coming year. to contain the fiscal deficit.

Details of funds spent in Bihar

*22: SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

- (a) the details of funds allotted to/spent in Bihar by the Ministry and its various organizations during the last three years and the current year, so far;
- (b) the purposes for which these funds were allotted/spent; and
- (c) the steps being taken to increase those funds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A table showing funds allocated and released to Bihar during the last three years and the current year, for various purposes under Grant No. 35 operated by the Ministry of Finance, is given in Statement (*See below*)

(c) Based on ongoing assessment of the overall and Inter State development priorities and absorptive capacity of States, Government of India provides assistance to supplement the developmental efforts of States with due regard to overall availability of resources. The quantum of Central assistance released to Bihar from Demand No. 35 has increased from Rs. 5917 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7358 crore in 2011-12.