

Therefore, while there has been a slowdown in the rate of economic growth, inflation has marginally declined.

The Government is taking various steps with a view to improving the economic growth and reducing inflation.

(c) Various measures contained in the Budget for 2012-13 including those aimed at fiscal consolidation and development of infrastructure and industrial sectors would also help in creating a more positive operational environment for business and private investment.

These measures include the various initiatives taken to deepen the capital markets, for capitalization of banks and financial holding companies and steps to improve financial inclusion.

The measures for the development of infrastructure and industrial sectors include launching of the first infrastructure debt fund, allowing tax free bonds of Rs. 60000 crore for financing infrastructure projects, bringing about the national manufacturing policy and further liberalizing the External Commercial Borrowings for some infrastructure sectors.

On Aug 6, 2012, the Finance Minister announced a number of additional steps with a view to overcoming the challenges being faced by the Indian economy. These include measures to formulate a path of fiscal consolidation, to remove the constraints on supply side with a view to reducing the pressure on prices, to attract more investment, to take corrective actions with regard to the tax regime and to remove the bottleneck to quicken implementation of key infrastructure projects. These steps would also help in creating a more positive operational environment for business and private investment. The full text of the Finance Minister's Statement is available at [http://www.finmin.nic.in/press\\_room/2012/fm\\_speech\\_Economy\\_RoadMap.pdf](http://www.finmin.nic.in/press_room/2012/fm_speech_Economy_RoadMap.pdf)

#### **Report of Ashok Chawla Committee**

208. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ashok Chawla Committee has submitted its report on allocation of natural resources in the wake of the 2G spectrum scam to Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation; and

(c) the number of recommendations that have been accepted by Government and how many are yet to accept and what is the time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ashok Chawla Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) which submitted its Report on 31st May, 2011, gave 81 recommendations covering eight natural resources *viz.* coal, minerals, petroleum, natural gas, spectrum, forests, land and water. The detailed recommendations of the CANR are at Annexure. [See Appendix 226 Annexure No. 4]

(2) Government has accepted 69 recommendations of the Ashok Chawla Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR). One recommendation has not been accepted by the Government. Eleven Recommendations of CANR are under consideration.

#### **Smuggling fake Indian currency**

209. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is clandestinely smuggling fake Indian currency notes to destabilise our economy;

(b) in this connection whether India is planning to make a request to the USA to divulge their strategies involved in checking counterfeit dollars;

(c) whether the Centre is planning support to top class research in right earnest to come up with a paper that is unique for our country in identifying notes; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, under the Indo-US Homeland Security Dialogue, one of the areas prioritized for co-operation is combating the menace of counterfeit currency.

(c) Presently, no such proposal is made.

(d) "Nil" in view of (c) above.

#### **Revision of 'A' and 'B' category cities**

†210. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal for putting some new cities of the State of Uttarakhand under 'A' and 'B' category;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.