

(c) whether the Government had to resort to selling of gold in international markets/institutions from its reserves, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There have been no instances of pawning of gold by Government of India in the last three years and current year.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Possibility of plastic notes**

1305. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to conduct field trials with one billion plastic/polymer bank notes to check the possibility of introducing plastic notes;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether circulation of these plastic currency will be area-specific due to varied geographical location and climatic conditions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the amount Government proposes to incur on these field trials of public notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) It has been decided by the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to introduce Rs. 10 notes in polymer/plastic on a field trial basis.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that field trial is proposed to be conducted at five places viz. Jaipur, Shimla, Bhubaneswar, Mysore and Cochin, keeping in view the varied geographical locations and climatic conditions. The expenditure proposed to be incurred on the field trial would be finalized in accordance with extant guidelines.

#### **Service charges on actual bills**

1306. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: