

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The number of ships imported for breaking at Alang has gone up from 367 to 455 while the customs duty paid on such ships has increased from 644 crores to 1611 crores between 2009-10 and 2011-12 indicating healthy growth in this sector. Customs duty collections from ships imported for breaking at Alang in the first quarter of 2012-13 over the same period of last year also show a healthy trend although the number of ships has gone down marginally.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Third party ATM charges

1308. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to push for lower Third party ATM charges in a bid to increase financial inclusion, risking further unpleasantness between Government and the Reserve Bank of India which is not enthused by the Idea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has decided to call the State-run banks and expected to tell them to lower charges;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Public Sector Banks are also opposed to the Idea; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) Government with an objective of making available banking services to the masses at most affordable cost, in most efficient manner and to achieve optimum level of systemic efficiency, had suggested various reforms/ action points which, *inter-alia*, included reduction in inter-change charges on ATM transactions.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has informed that the interchange fee under the National Financial Switch (NFS) being managed by NPCI has been reduced from Rs. 18 to Rs. 15 per financial transaction and Rs. 8 to Rs. 5 per non-financial transaction (Balance Enquiry/Pin Change/Mini statement) with effect from 1st August, 2012.