

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been spent for the development of SCs/STs by giving it back; and

(c) if not, the way Government is undertaking developmental works for SCs/STs in absence of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the Planning Commission, having recognized the diversion of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) funds, appointed a Task Force under Dr. Narendra Jadhav to re-examine and revise the extant guidelines issued by Planning Commission for implementation of SCSP and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and to understand the operational difficulties in consultation with implementing Ministries and suggest remedial action so that SCSP and TSP can be implemented effectively in future. The special circumstances and problems of Delhi in formulating the SCSP as per the guidelines have been referred to Planning commission by GNCT of Delhi and it has further referred the matter to Jadhav Committee for examination and recommendations. The Report of Jadhav Committee is awaited.

In the meantime, allocation for the Department for welfare of SC/ST/OBC of GNCT of Delhi during 2010-11 has been increased by Rs. 37.85 crore from BE provision of Rs. 49.75 crore to Rs. 87.60 crore in RE. In the current year 2011-12, the allocation has been increased to Rs. 250.00 crore. The finalization of SCSP for 2011-12 is held up for want of recommendations by Jadhav Committee.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Fiscal Deficit Target

1. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit target for the current year is unlikely to be achieved;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the slippage;

(c) whether this slippage has a serious impact on our macro-economic stability; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to correct the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) 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.

(c) The Indian economy was estimated to grow by 6.9 per cent in 2011-12 in terms of gross domestic product at factor cost at constant 2004-05 prices. However, this has been revised to 6.5 per cent mainly on account of lower performance in 'manufacturing' and 'trade, hotels, transport and communication' than anticipated. The slowdown can be attributed both to domestic and global factors. Global factors include, in particular, the crisis in the eurozone area and near-recessionary conditions in Europe; slow growth in many other industrialized countries, hardening of international prices of crude oil, etc. Domestic factors, namely the tightening of monetary policy, in order to control inflation also contributed to the slowing down of investment and growth, particularly in the industrial sector. The slowdown in the economy, coupled with rising costs and narrowing profit margins of the corporate sector led to a lower than budgeted growth in government revenues.

(d) Government is keeping a strict vigil on the Indian economy in the current financial year. 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 2011-2012 to around 5.1 per cent of GDP in BE 2012-13 is targetted 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 year's budget, several steps have been taken to increase the tax revenues;
- (ii) 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 macro-economic 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.;

- (iii) 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 prioritized schemes and weeding out others that have outlived their utility. It would also encourage efficiencies in expenditure management;
- (iv) Government also endeavours to restrict the expenditure on Central subsidies. Similar steps are expected to be continued in the coming years to contain the fiscal deficit.
- (v) Government has constituted a committee comprising Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Dr. Indira Rajaraman and Dr. Sanjiv Misra to assist the Government in formulating the path of fiscal consolidation.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Short Notice Question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri N.K. Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is Mr. N.K. Singh present? Not present. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, let us take up Statement by Minister correcting answer to Question. Shri Mukul Wasnik. ...*(Interruptions)*...

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I make a statement correcting the reply to Starred Question 307 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 2012 regarding 'Funds Spent in Uttar Pradesh'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. ...*(Interruptions)*...

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA) Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—