

1. The rate of interest on small savings schemes has been aligned with G-Sec rates of similar maturity, with a spread of 25 basis points (bps) with two exceptions. The spread on 10 year NSC (New Instrument) will be 50 bps and on Senior Citizens Savings Scheme 100 bps.
2. The rate of interest on Post Office Savings Account (POSA) has been increased from 3.5% to 4%. The ceiling of maximum balance in POSA (Rs. 1 lakh in single account and Rs. 2 lakh in joint account) has been removed.
3. The maturity period for Monthly Income Scheme (MIS) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) has been reduced from 6 years to 5 years.
4. A new NSC instrument, with maturity period of 10 years, is being introduced.
5. The annual ceiling on investment under Public Provident Fund (PPF) Scheme has been increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.
6. Liquidity of Post Office Time Deposit (POTD) - 1, 2, 3 and 5 years—has been improved by allowing pre-mature withdrawal at a rate of interest 1% less than the time deposits of comparable maturity. For pre-mature withdrawals between 6-12 months of investment, Post Office Savings Account (POSA) rate of interest will be paid.

The Reserve Bank of India has also deregulated the savings bank deposit interest rate effective October 25, 2011. Banks are now free to determine their savings bank deposit interest rate, subject to the following two conditions: First, each bank will have to offer a uniform interest rate on savings bank balances up to Rs. 1 lakh, irrespective of the amount in the account within this limit. Second, for savings bank balances over Rs. 1 lakh, a bank may provide differential rates of interest, if it so chooses.

Complaints about scalping

2070. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

- (a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India has proposed some rules for investment banks and also planning to regulate analyst's trading activities, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether SEBI has received complaints about scalping for the last ten years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those who indulged in scalping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The securities market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), framed the Regulation for Merchant Bankers, who are termed as investment bankers, in 1992. Clause 5.5 of Part-B of Schedule I of SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992 requires that Analysts, who are involved in the preparation of research reports of a client company(s), shall disclose their shareholdings/interest in such company(s) to the Compliance Officer of the Organization/firm that employs them. Further, clause 5.6 of the aforesaid Regulation prohibiting Insider Trading, stipulates that Analysts who prepare research report of a listed company shall not trade in securities of that company for thirty days from preparation of such report. The issue of framing a comprehensive regulation for research analysts has also received the attention of SEBI. However, no final decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) and (c) 'Scalping' is not defined in SEBI Act/Regulations/Circulars/Guidelines, etc. No complaints with regard to 'scalping' have been received by SEBI. However, SEBI has received complaints alleging that some investment advisors/analysts had disseminated misleading information, affecting investment decisions of general public. These complaints were analyzed by SEBI and appropriate action was initiated.

Norms for declaring BPL people

2071. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms that are taken into consideration for declaring below poverty line (BPL) people;

(b) the necessary norms for the urban poor to cover by Ration Card; and

(c) whether Government has been able to find number of BPL and urban poor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The