

Further, as recommended by FC-XIII for its award period (2010-15), loans extended to States through Ministries other than MoF under Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Central Plan Schemes (CSS/CPS) and outstanding at the end of 2009-10, have also been written off to the extent of Rs. 2,050 crore till 31.3.2012. Government of Maharashtra has been extended debt waiver of Rs. 182 crore till 2011-12 on this account.

FC XIII has also recommended reset of interest rates on loans from National Small Savings Fund, contracted up to 2006-07 and outstanding at the end of the year preceding the year of enactment/amendment of the States' FRBMAs, at a common rate of 9% per annum. As estimated by FC XIII, interest relief of Rs. 13,517 crore is expected to accrue to States on this account, during 2010-15. The benefit continuing beyond the award period of FC-XIII has been estimated to reach Rs. 28,360 crore by the maturity of the last loan coming under purview.

Opening of branches of nationalised banks in Uttarakhand

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

- (a) the places where it is proposed to establish the branches of nationalised banks in Uttarakhand;
- (b) when the proposal of opening the branches was made;
- (c) whether branches have been opened as per the proposal; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) As reported by the State Bank of India (SBI), the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) Convenor Bank for the State of Uttarakhand, from April, 2012 to September, 2012, a total of 15 branches (7 in rural areas, 3 in semi-urban areas and 5 in urban areas) were proposed to be established by banks in the State of Uttarakhand. Out of these 15 branches, one rural branch in Raiwala Centre has been opened on 26.7.2012 and the process of opening remaining branches is in various stages readiness.

Property seized by ED

650. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the names of persons whose property has been seized by Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in last two years;
- (b) the details thereof for each person; and
- (c) the number of persons against whom ED has registered case, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Enforcement Directorate has registered 1993 cases under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) in the last two years and property of 103 persons valued at Rs. 2406.28 lacs was seized, during investigation.

Similarly, Enforcement Directorate has registered 396 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and during investigation property of 58 persons valued at Rs. 56965.32 lacs was attached in the same period.

In the interest of investigation under the provisions of FEMA/PMLA, the names/details of individuals cannot be disclosed by the Enforcement Directorate.

‘Appointment of Chairman of 14th Finance Commission’

651. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that appointment of Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission is shrouded in mystery;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the Commission will get its Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is in the process of constituting the 14th Finance Commission and notification comprising names of Chairman, members and terms of reference of the Commission will soon be notified through Presidential Order. A copy of the Presidential Order will be tabled in the floor of House.