rupee to depreciate sharply against the US dollar. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is closely monitoring the conditions in the foreign exchange market. In order to restore stability in the foreign exchange market, several measures *viz.* recalibration of the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate 300 basis points above the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), conduct of open market sales of Government of India securities, etc. have been announced by the RBI. The Government has taken several measures to increase exports, contain imports and attract foreign investment in order to reduce the current account deficit and improve the outlook of the external sector. Some of these measures include raising the rate of interest subvention from 2 to 3 per cent that will benefit exporters of small and medium enterprises, hike in import duty on gold, liberalization of FDI norms, etc.

Circulation of fake currency in the country

*27. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether intelligent inputs suggest that areas around Azamgarh especially Phoolpur, Sarai Meer, Lalganj, Bilariganj and Nepal are emerging as centres for monitoring the circulation of fake currency notes in India through agents working for Pakistan;

(b) the total volume of fake currency floated in India, as on today as detected; and

(c) what remedial measures had been undertaken at present to curb this unbearable menace of circulation of fake currency in India on behalf of Pakistan, which has become the main root cause for even growing terrorism in India and death blow to our geniuine Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that there are no specific intelligence inputs suggesting that Azamgarh and surrounding areas are emerging as centres for circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) in India through agents working in Pakistan. However, inputs indicate that several places located on the international border in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have emerged as major routes for FICN smuggling into India.

(b) As per inputs made available by the National Crime Records Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the total face value of FICN reported as seized and recovered in India in the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 (upto 30th June) is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Face value of FICN seized and recovered
1.	2010	Rs. 27.82 crores
2.	2011	Rs. 29.40 crores
3.	2012	Rs. 32.63 crores
4.	2013 (upto 30th June)	Rs. 16.29 crores

(c) To address the multi-dimensional aspects of the menace of FICN, several agencies such as Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Security and Intelligence Agencies of the Centre and States, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) etc., are working in tandem, to thwart the illegal activities related to FICNs. The legal regime has been strengthened by recent amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Further, one special FICN Coordination (FCORD) Group has been formed in the Ministry of Home Affairs to share the intelligence/information amongst the different security agencies of State/Centre to counter the menace of circulation of fake currency notes in the country.

CBI and National Investigation Agency (NIA) have been declare as lead agencies for investigation of FICN cases. The Government has also constituted a Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell (TFFC) in NIA to focus on investigation of Terror Funding and Fake Currency cases.

The Reserve Bank of India has also, *inter alia*, initiated the following measures to check the menace of FICN:

I. Instructions have been issued to banks that banknotes in denominations of Rs. 100/- and above should be re-issued by banks over their counters or through ATMs only if these banknotes are duly checked for authenticity/genuineness and fitness by machines.

II. The banks have been advised to streamline the system of reporting and detection of counterfeit notes in a manner so as to safeguard the interest of the common man who unknowingly comes into possession of such notes.

III. Awareness programmes are conducted by RBI to make the public aware of the features of Indian banknotes and ways to identify genuine Indian banknotes.

IV. The Reserve Bank regularly conducts training programmes on detection of counterfeit notes for employees/officers of banks and other organisations handling large amount of cash.

Fast tracking of infrastructural projects

*28. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is embarking on fast tracking of infrastructural projects which were stalled due to various bottlenecks and clearances from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects identified so far for fast tracking; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to clear the hindrances in getting clearances for their early execution?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The Government has set up the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) with the Prime Minister as the Chairman to expedite decisions on approvals/clearances for implementation of projects. The CCI monitors and reviews the implementation of major projects to ensure accelerated and time bound grant of various licenses, permissions and approvals.