

While, UIDAI has not been asked to buy insurance cover, a view in the matter will be taken subject to technical and commercial feasibility and performance of the authentication services.

Maintenance of FTA and FEE data by RBI

815. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is maintaining data on monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) on the basis of data received from major ports and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism;

(b) if so, the details of FTAs and FEEs from tourism during the period January-May, 2013; and

(c) whether RBI is supplying this data to the Ministry of Tourism and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of the Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) on the basis of FTAs data at major ports and the Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism on the basis of data available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) The number of FTAs and FEEs during January - May, 2013 were 28.63 lakhs (provisional) and Rs. 43,412 crore (advance estimate), respectively.

(c) For the purpose of compiling the monthly estimates of FEEs. Ministry of Tourism takes the data of credit from India's Balance of Payment as per the publication titled "Reserve Bank of India Bulletin" of RBI, which is available with a lag of one year usually.

Pension to employees of Gramin Banks on RRBs

816. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has in principle decided to give pension to all officers and employees of Gramin Banks; and

(b) the present position of granting pension to the officers and employees in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the model existing in Nationalized Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are getting pension under provisions of Employees Provident Fund (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1952.

The Government has in principle decided to allow RRBs to adopt pension at par with Nationalised Banks under a prescribed frame work.

Depreciation of rupee

817. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the rupee has depreciated by over 35 per cent against the dollar and other major currencies in the last six years;

(b) what steps Government is contemplating to arrest the fall of the rupee given the Current Account Deficit (CAD) figures;

(c) whether Government is planning to give fresh incentives to labour based export industries to improve the CAD; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) During the last six years between 2007-08 to 2012-13, annual average exchange rate of the rupee depreciated by 26.0 per cent against US dollar from ₹ 40.24 per US dollar in 2007-08 to ₹ 54.41 per US dollar in 2012-13. Similarly, annual average exchange rate of the rupee depreciated by 6.0 per cent against Pound sterling, 18.7 per cent against Euro and 46.4 per cent against Japanese yen between 2007-08 and 2012-13.

(b) The Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have taken a number of steps to augment supply of foreign exchange and to curb speculation in the foreign exchange market to stem the rupee depreciation. These, *inter-alia*, include RBI's intervention in the foreign exchange market, liberalised norms for FDI in certain sectors, enhancing FII limits in Government and corporate debt market, enhancement of all-in-cost ceilings for trade credit, increase in ECB limit for Non-Banking Financial Companies-Infrastructure Companies (NBFC-IFCs) under the automatic route, liberalisation of interest rates on foreign currency non-resident deposits and measures to curb speculation in the foreign exchange market.