

per cent for refined edible oils; banned export of edible oils (except coconut oil, forest based oil and edible oils in blended consumer packs up to 5 kg with a Minimum Export Price of USD 1500 per MT), and pulses (except Kabuli chana and organic pulses and lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes per annum); maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs.3 per kg for AAY) and wheal (at Rs 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs 2 per kg for AAY) constant since 2002; suspension of futures trading in rice, urad and tur; Jixingthe Minimum Export Price (MEP) of onion at USD 1150 per MT *w.e.f.* 1.11.2013. As a part of demand management, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had earlier raised the policy rates by 375 basis points (bps) from March, 2010 to October, 2011 to contain inflation. With some moderation in inflation, particularly core inflation, RBI had started reducing the policy rates. But on account of the persistent food inflation, accompanied by high current account deficit and depreciation of rupee against US dollar, RBI has announced that it would wait for conducive conditions for further monetary easing.

#### **Increase in number of IT assesses**

1293. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of Income-tax (IT) assesses have increased manifolds in the past years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has adequate infrastructure and manpower to meet this increase, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM): (a) and (b) Yes, the number of Income Tax assesseees have increased manifolds in the past years. In past 15 years the number of effective IT assesseees has increased more than three times from 1,16,43,543 as on 31.3.1997 to 3,63,45,994 as on 31.3.2012.

(c) The Cabinet has approved the Cadre restructuring of the Income Tax Department in May, 2013. The implementation of the same is under progress. Inter alia, additional 1080 assessment units to be manned by approximately 20,000 more personnel have been created to meet the increasing number of IT assesseees.

#### **Debt burden of West Bengal**

1294. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: