THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Flow of credit from banks

2584. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has asked the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to increase the flow of credit in various sector;

(b) if so, the details and the direction issued in this regard; and

(c) the details of efforts being made by banks to increase the flow of credit, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Priority Sector Lending targets of 40% of adjusted Net Bank credit are given to all Public Sector Banks. They have to achieve the given targets for Agriculture, MSME, SME and Weaker Sections. Further, the PSBs have their own board approved loan policy. They extend commercial loans in terms of their policy within the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) prescribed exposure norms for individual extities, groups and sectors. Credit is exterded by them within the exposure limits available for each sector.

(c) PSBs make specific and concerted efforts to increase the credit flow to various sectors by organising Mela/festival/special schemes for car, housing, tractor etc. They offer concessional rate of interest, margin and processing fee etc. during these special drives.

Per capita debt burden

†2585. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita debt burden in the country as on date;

(b) the amount spent in the form of interest for the said debt during the last three years and current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The per capita debt burden on the country *inter-alia* including external

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

debt, internal debt and other liabilities as per Provisional Accounts of the Union Government for the year 2013-14 is ₹41,129.

(b) The amount of interest paid on the outstanding debt during the last three years and current financial year (upto September 2014) is given below:

(₹ in crore)

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014 (Provisional)	2014-2015 (Upto September 2014)
Payment of Interest	2,73,150	3,13,170	3,77,502	1,85,670

(c) The Government has reverted to the path of fiscal consolidation with gradual exit from the expansionary measures in a calibrated manner. The reduction in fiscal deficit from 4.6 per cent of GDP in Revised Estimates 2013-2014 to 4.1 per cent of GDP in Budget Estimates 2014-2015 is designed with a mix of reduction in total expenditure as percentage of GDP and improvement in gross tax revenue as percentage of GDP. With reprioritization of expenditure towards developmental side and curtailing the growth in non-development expenditure, total expenditure is estimated to decline as percentage of GDP. Government has announced a fiscal roadmap to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3% by 2016-2017 with a reduction of 0.5% - 0.6% every year.

Industry status for agriculture

†2586. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken for economic reforms in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to grant the status of industry to agriculture; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) A series of reforms have been initiated by the Government. Some of them include FDI liberalization in many sectors, de-licensing of a vast number of defence items, setting up a separate department of skill development and entrepreneurship, deregulation of diesel prices, introduction of new domestic gas pricing policy. Reforms have been initiated in different sectors and areas like infrastructure including target-based progress on National Highways, encouraging FDI in Railways to build world class infrastructure, emphasis on High Speed/Semi-high Speed Rail, development of sixteen new ports with focus on port connectivity, comprehensive policy to promote

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.