

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	2014-2015
			(Provisional)	(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.

Indian ship building industry; manufacturing sector by the “Make in India” initiative; coal sector reforms, financial sector reforms and reforms in the social sector like Swachh Bharat Mission and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration to grant the status of industry to agriculture.

**New guidelines for ATM transactions**

2587. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has issued guidelines for banks to charge for more than five transactions a month at the native ATMs and more than three at ATMs of third party banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether public and private sector banks have since revised their charges on ATMs uses;

(d) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise;

(e) whether levy of these charges, would force people to visit branches; and

(f) if so, the efforts taken by Government to hold off revised ATM charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (f) In order to reduce cash usage and increase the usage of electronic transactions in the country, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines dated 14.08.2014 by which the number of mandated free transactions for savings bank account holders at other bank ATMs has been reduced from five to three per month *w.e.f.* November 01, 2014. This will apply for transactions done at ATMs located in six metro centres only, namely, Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Banks have also been advised to offer at least five free transactions per month at own bank ATMs in all locations. Banks are also free to offer free transactions above the mandated limit of free transactions per month.

This reduction will, however, not apply to customers having no-frills/small/Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) type of accounts as well as for transactions done by savings bank account-holders at ATMs situated outside these six metro centres. As per information collected from PSBs, sixteen Banks have allowed unlimited free transactions for their customers at their own ATMs throughout the country and other PSBs have revised the free transactions in accordance with RBI guidelines.