

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Information regarding fiscal concessions to NGOs is not maintained centrally in Department of Expenditure. Fiscal concessions in the form of Grants-in-aid to NGOs is governed and regulated as per the stipulations contained in the General Financial Rules (GFRs), 2005, as amended from time to time. As per the GFRs the Ministry or Department of the Central Government directly concerned with the aim or activity of the Institution consider requests for Grants-in-aid in consultation with the concerned Internal Finance Wing (IFW) attached to each Department, headed by the Financial Adviser, in line with scheme guidelines and GFRs. The IFW lays down the rule or pattern of assistance, reporting obligations on the part of grantee body and other parameters at the time of extension of grants, within the broad framework available under the GFRs.

Diversion of OLD Funds

3402. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount collected so far through cess on petrol sales *vis-a-vis* the fund kept aside in Oil Industry Development Fund (OIDF) for financing the setting up of strategic oil storage across the country;
- (b) the reasons for not transferring the whole petrol cess money into OIDF; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government not to divert OIDF fund for addressing fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, cess is levied on crude oil produced in India. No cess is levied on the sale of petrol under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974.

- (b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.
- (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) and (b) above.

Waiver of debts of small and marginal farmers

†3403. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of incidents of suicides committed by the debt ridden farmers during the last one year;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of those marginal and middle level farmers who failed to pay back loans taken from banks and private institutions, State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide relief from the debt to those marginal and middle level farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) As per the report on 'Accidental Deaths in India' by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the no. of suicides committed by persons self-employed in farming/agriculture, in the year 2013 were 11,772. However, as recorded by NCRB, the reasons for suicide by farmers are not solely the agrarian factors, but, *inter alia*, are family problems, illness, drug abuse/addiction, unemployment, property dispute, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty, fall in social reputation, dowry dispute, etc.

(b) The data on marginal and middle level farmers who failed to pay back loans taken from banks and private institutions are not maintained. However, the NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks(SCBs) in agriculture sector is 5.36% as on September, 2014.

(c) and (d) To reduce the debt burden of farmers and increase the availability of institutional credit to them, the Government has, *inter alia*, taken following major steps:-

- In view of the distress of farmers due to heavy debt burden, the Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 was implemented by the Government.
- In order to ease the burden of interest on farmers, the Government provides interest subvention since 2006-07 to make short-term crop loans upto ₹3 lakh for a period of one year available to farmers at the interest rate of 7% per annum and in case of prompt repayment, the same gets reduced to 4%.
- In order to ensure that all eligible farmers are provided with hassle-free and timely credit for their agricultural operations, the Government has introduced the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, which enables them to purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash to satisfy their consumption needs.
- The KCC Scheme has since been simplified and converted into ATM enabled

debit card with, inter alia, facilities of one-time documentation and built-in cost escalation in the limit, etc.

- To bring small, marginal, tenant farmers, oral lessees, etc. into the fold of institutional credit, Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been promoted by banks.
- Banks have been advised by RBI to waive margin/security requirements of agricultural loans upto ₹ 1,00,000/-. The requirement of 'no due' certificate has also been dispensed with for small loans up to ₹50,000/- to small and marginal farmers, share-croppers and the like and, instead, only a self-declaration from the borrower is required.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), overdraft limit upto ₹ 5000/- can be provided to an account-holder, preferably lady of the household, after six months of satisfactory operation of the account.

Evasion of Central Excise Tax

†3404. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central Excise Taxes due on the domestic as well as multinational companies as on date and the details thereof for the last three years along with the names of such companies;

(b) whether Government is aware that a number of companies are taking the manufactured items out of the factories without paying Central Excise Taxes;

(c) if so, the details of such companies and the action taken against them, so far; and

(d) the details of concrete action taken by Government in order to recover the taxes expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) As on 30.9.2014, the total amount of Central Excise duty due is ₹ 63363.51 crore. The breakup of such dues from domestic and multinational companies separately as well as the details of such assesseees is not maintained centrally.

(b) The details of clandestine removal of cases detected are as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.