- Higher allocation of rice to BPL and APL families in states and, higher allocation of wheat under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) for 2014-15;
- Moderation in increases in the Minimum Support Prices during the last and current season;
- Advisory to the states to allow free movement of fruits and vegetables by delisting them from the APMC Act;
- Restrictions on hoarding and exports of onions and potatoes.

(b) Persistent decline in oil prices in the international market has helped in moderating inflation.

(c) Details of the World Bank energy index, Indian crude basket prices and Indian energy price index measured in terms of WPI mineral oils index during the period June 2014 to January 2015 are given below.

Table: Global and domestic energy indices

	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15
World Bank Energy Index	131.5	126.9	121.2	116.6	106.2	96.4	78.5	63.0
Average Indian Crude Basket US $ Prices	109.1	106.3	101.8	97.0	86.5	77.3	61.2	46.6
Rupees	6519	6384	6199	5901	5305	4768	3835	2900
WPI Fuel (Mineral Oils) Index	233.8	237.6	236.5	235.6	231.4	214.4	205.6	197.8

Source: World Bank Pink Sheet, PPAC (MoPNG) and DIPP (MoCI).

Action taken by SEBI against M/s Bhushan Steel Limited

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

(a) whether M/s. Bhushan Steel Limited have been barred by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for alleged manipulation of shares and laundering of unaccounted money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is also considering to book the malafide promoters of Bhushan Steel Limited under FEMA for money laundering and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has not barred M/s Bhushan Steel Limited for alleged manipulation of shares and laundering of unaccounted money.

However, SEBI, *vide* interim directions in the matter of First Financial Services Limited and Radford Global Limited, both dated 19.12.2014, has barred 260 entities including Brij Bhushan Singal, Neeraj Singal, Ritu Singal and Uma Singal from buying, selling or dealing in the securities markets, either directly or indirectly, in any manner, till further directions, as it was *prima-facie* observed that these entities were involved in the misuse of the stock exchange system to generate fictitious Long Term Capital Gains Tax which is tax exempt. *Prima-facie*, this has been done to evade tax on otherwise taxable income.

SEBI has further informed that they have observed that Brij Bhushan Singal, Neeraj Singal and Ritu Singal are promoters/directors of M/s Bhushan Steel Limited and Uma Singal is their family member.

(c) The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) is enforced by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). In this regard, ED has informed that they have not registered any case under FEMA against the promoters of M/s Bhushan Steel Ltd. for alleged manipulation of shares and laundering of unaccounted money.

Branch network of BMB

†885. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) has completed more than one year of its operations;

(b) whether there is only one branch of BMB in the entire undivided Andhra Pradesh *i.e.* at Kakinada in East Godavari district;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.