

In so far as Indirect Taxes (customs and central excise duties) are concerned, exemptions/concessions are extended to goods in general and not to any particular industrialists.

As per the Expenditure Budget 2014-15, the fertilizer, food and petroleum subsidies for the year 2012-13 amounted to ₹ 2.47 lakh crores (actual) and for the year 2013-14 they amounted to ₹ 2.45 lakh crores (revised estimates).

In order to better target the poor and vulnerable sections, Government has started the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. This is expected to ensure targeted coverage of the beneficiaries, reduce delays and ensure time bound delivery of benefits to the beneficiaries.

#### **Harassment of bank account-holders by RBI**

†\*11. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court has sought comments on unnecessarily taxing the bank account-holders and for fixing the limit of withdrawals from ATMs by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI); if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of account-holders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its circular dated 14.8.2014, issued unders. The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act, 2007) has reduced the number of free transactions at other bank's ATMs for saving bank account holders from five to three (inclusive of both, financial and non-financial transactions) in the six metro centres, viz. Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. This reduction is not applicable to small/ no frills/ Basic Saving Bank Account holders. RBI has informed that this circular dated 14.8.2014 has been challenged in a Writ Petition filed in Delhi High Court. The matter is subjudice and is being defended by RBI. The Government is of the view that RBI is adequately protecting the interests of the account-holders.

#### **DTH service providers in the country**

†\*12. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Direct to Home (DTH) service providers in the country;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.