

- (c) the aims and objectives of Gold Deposit Schemes;
- (d) whether any guidelines have been issued for depositing gold in banks; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India holds 557.75 tonnes of gold. The Government does not maintain the data on gold held by the people in the country. As per some reports, there is approximately 20,000 tonnes of gold held by the people in the country.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange used for importing' gold' during last three years is given below:

Year	Value (Million USD)
2012-13	53820.63
2013-14	28704.67
2014-15	34405.93

Note: Figures for 2014-15 is provisional.

(c) The Gold Deposit Scheme was launched by the Government of India in the year 1999 with the aim and objective of mobilizing the idle gold in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Gold Deposit Scheme was notified by the RBI on September 14, 1999 and *vide* enabling circulars dated October 5th, 1999; RBI formulated the enabling guidelines. Later *vide* notification dated January 24, 2013 and February 14, 2013, certain changes were introduced in the scheme.

Interest free agricultural loan

†967. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government/RBI has issued any guidelines for Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to provide interest free agricultural loans to the farmers; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the banking sector thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not issued any guidelines for public sector banks to provide interest free agricultural loans to the farmers. However, with a view to ensure availability of agriculture credit at a reasonable cost, the Government provides interest subvention to make short-term crop loans upto ₹ 3 lakhs available to farmers at the interest rate of 7% per annum and in case of prompt repayment, the same gets reduced to 4%. In addition, to discourage distress sale of crops by farmers, the benefit of interest subvention is also available to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of up to six months (post- harvest) for keeping their produce against negotiable warehouse receipts, at the same rate as available to crop loan.

Further, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, under the Interest Subvention Scheme of Government of India, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on the restructured loan amount and such restructured loans may attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per the policy laid down by RBI.

Subsidy on petro products

968. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of various taxes levied on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel in the country; and

(b) the amount of subsidy given to the petroleum products and taxes collected from each such product during the financial years 2012-13, 2013-14 and the first six months of the financial year 2014-15 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The current rates of Central Excise and Customs duties on Petrol, Diesel, and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) are as under:

Central Excise :

Petroleum Product	Central Excise Duty		
	BED	SAED	AED
1	2	3	4
Petrol (Unbranded)	5.46 ₹/litre	6 ₹/litre	6 ₹/litre
Petrol (Branded)	6.64 ₹/litre	6 ₹/litre	6 ₹/litre