

2011. The building which was constructed up to 2nd floor got stalled due to abandonment by their contractor despite grant of time limits and persuasion to speed-up the completion of the project. APIIC Ltd. finally conveyed their inability to complete the project due to their involvement in other big projects. Subsequently the Authority has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CPWD in 2014 for completing the building project. Accordingly revised tenders were floated and balance work of construction of IRDAI building has been awarded with project completion period of 21 months from the date of issuance of Acceptance Letter by CPWD to the contractor on 27th April 2015. The building construction has recommenced and it is in progress.

(b) The estimated cost of construction in 2010 (22nd October 2010) was ₹ 116.40 crore and the revised estimate of construction in August 2014 (25th August 2014) was ₹ 165.73 crore.

Service Tax and Service Charges levied by restaurants

1696. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to provide instructions and to create awareness campaigns about the difference between Service Tax and Service Charges levied by hotels and restaurants; and

(b) whether the Ministry intends on taking action against those hospitality services providers who charge high service charges in addition to Service Tax, thereby burdening the public, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA) : (a) Ministry has issued a Press Release clarifying that the service charges charged in the bills issued by restaurants/hotels/eateries, are not 'service tax' imposed by the Government and collected on behalf of the Government, as tax. The service charges are collected by restaurants/hotels/eateries and retained by them.

(b) Charging of service charges by restaurants is not an offence under the Finance Act, 1994 and hence the question of taking action against them does not arise.

Free treatment to the patients belonging to EWS Category

1697. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether Government has issued or proposes to issue any directions to the private hospitals