

2 years are allowed duty free baggage allowance up to ₹ 50,000/- or ₹ 15,000/- depending on which countries they are returning from.

(b) Customs Baggage Rules are laid down for regulating the movement of admissible or non-admissible articles/ goods as baggage of a passenger. Present day Baggage Rules are notified under section 79 of the Customs Act, 1962 and the earliest known rules predate year 1939.

(c) No. Monetary limit of free baggage allowance has already been enhanced in the Baggage Rules, 2016, which came into effect on 01.04.2016. There are no plans to scrap the system.

Printing of defective currency notes

1056. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 defective notes printed at Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad have hit the market in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government for hassle free replacement of such notes by the banks on being approached by the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) On December 11, 2015 it was informed by one of the Regional Offices of RBI that they had received some banknotes of ₹ 1000 denomination with inset letter 'L' belonging to some particular series without having Security thread. The incident happened in the Hosangabad Unit of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd (SPMCIL). Other essential features were present in the banknotes in question. The defective notes found to be in circulation amounted to ₹ 7.56 Lakhs only. All the bank branches/currency chests & RBI offices were immediately instructed to stop issuing all banknotes of ₹ 1000 denomination belonging to the detected series. Further they were advised to do detailed verification of these notes in stock. Instructions were issued to all the Concerned Regional Offices of RBI regarding detailed verification of stocks of notes as indicated by SPMCIL. However subsequently it was decided to remit back these notes to SPMCIL for thorough verification and resupply only those which are found to be fit for circulation.

(c) These banknotes in question are genuine but printed defectively. Extant instructions are already in place to deal with such cases.