

them, as per their Board approval policy. While fixing service charges, banks are advised to ensure that the charges are reasonable and transparently disclosed to the customers.

With the introduction of Core Banking Solution (CBS), banks have been advised that charges levied by the bank to cover the cost of extending services to customers using the CBS / Internet / Intranet platform *i.e.* 'Intersol Charges' should be uniform at home branch and non-home branches. However, cash handling charges are not included under intersol charges, since there is an additional cost involved in handling and storing cash.

Bank closure on second and fourth Saturdays

1035. DR. K. V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any complaints against the practice of closing banks on 2nd and 4th Saturday every month; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will consider rolling back the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA):

(a) The decision of closer of Banks on 2nd and 4th Saturday every month is well deliberated one with stakeholders. Though the Government has received a few representations in this regard, none of the Public Sector Banks have reported receiving any complaints against the practice of closing banks on 2nd and 4th Saturday every month.

(b) In view of (a) above, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

Clean Energy Cess

1036. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds that are likely to be generated with the increase in the Clean Energy Cess;

(b) whether all the funds collected from the cess would still be credited to the National Clean Energy Fund; and

(c) whether the scope of the utilization of the fund would be expanded to support other environmental initiatives and to promote clean energy development initiatives by SC/ST entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA):

(a) The estimated revenue gain on account of increase in the rate of Clean Energy Cess from ₹ 200 per tonne to ₹ 400 per tonne is about ₹ 12,600 crore in a full year.