

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.

(b) The objective of transfer to National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) is linked to the absorption capacity of the line Ministries, which are implementing various Clean Energy Projects/ Schemes. Accordingly, funds are transferred to the NCEF as per requirement.

(c) The scope has been expanded to include clean energy initiatives such as NamamiGange and Green India Initiative. The schemes from the NCEF are financed for projects beneficial to all sections of the society.

Reduction in interest rates of small savings

1037. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reduced the interest rates on various Small Saving Schemes of Post Offices of India;

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

(c) whether there is any plan of Government to introduce any new scheme in Post Offices like the Kisan Vikas Patra -KVP or National Saving Certificate-NSC in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Madam, high small savings interest rates limit the banking sector's ability to lower deposit rates in response to the monetary policy (lowered repo rate) of the Reserve Bank of India.

In the context of easing the transmission of the interest rates in the economy, the Government has taken a comprehensive view on the social goals of certain National Small Savings Schemes. Accordingly, from 1.4.2016, the rates of interest stand revised as under:-

Instrument	Rate of interest w.e.f. 01.04.2015 to 31.3.2016 (effective annual rates)	Rate of interest w.e.f. 01.04.2016 to 30.6.2016 (effective annual rates)
1	2	3
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0