was expected due to the fear that melting of the ornaments donated by devotees may hurt their religious sentiments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has held talks with the temples and temple trusts in this regard and if so, the reaction of these temples thereto; and

(e) the total quantity of gold deposited so far in banks by temples and other under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Gold Monetisation Scheme is intended to mobilize idle gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes, and in the long run, to reduce country's reliance on the import of gold.

(b) and (c) Since Gold Monetisation Scheme was launched on 5th November, 2015, it will be too early to assess the response of temples and trusts towards this scheme. Temple and Trusts have so far deposited a total of 1512 kilograms of gold under this scheme.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Under the Gold Monetisation Scheme, a total of 2820 Kilograms of gold have so far been deposited by Temple trusts and others.

Introduction of new ITR forms

1041. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has come out with new complicated Income Tax Return (ITRs) forms that require disclosure of details regarding fixed deposits, value of vehicles, value of jewellery, value of house, etc.;

(b) if so, reasons for harassing tax payers by introducing new norms every year;

(c) whether there has been criticism of new forms seeking too much data from tax payers; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to simplify the ITR forms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Prior to Assessment Year (A.Y.) 2015-16, the Asset-Liability Schedule (Schedule AL) was applicable to filers of ITR 3 and 4, whose total income for the previous year exceeded ₹25 lakh. Vide Finance Act 2015, levy of wealth-tax has been abolished with the condition that the information regarding assets which were required to be furnished in the return of net wealth will be captured in the Income-tax returns. Accordingly, Government has rationalised the ITR forms for A.Y. 2016-17 by making the Schedule AL applicable to individuals and HUFs whose total income for the previous year exceeds ₹ 50 lakh. Therefore, schedule AL has been added to ITR-1, 2, 2A and 4S to capture details of land, building, jewellery and bullion, cash in hand, vehicles, yachts, boats and aircraft to ensure that abolition of levy of wealth-tax from A.Y. 2016-17 does not lead to escapement of any income from the tax net.

(c) and (d) The ITR forms are regularly rationalised so as to bring it in consonance with the law in force. The ITR forms are designed to strike a fine balance between minimising the burden of compliance and the need to capture information necessary to mitigate the risk of tax evasion.

Payment of interest on savings accounts in PSBs

1042. SHRI SALIM ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions to various banks to pay interest on saving banks accounts on a quarterly basis or shorter duration;

(b) if so, complete details in this regard; and

(c) the names of banks which are likely to implement the guidelines of RBI from quarter starting June, 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions to all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCB) *vide* Master Circular No.84/13.03.00/2015-16 March 03, 2016 to credit interest on saving deposits accounts at quarterly or shorter intervals. All SCBs have to adhere to the instructions.

Measures to check circulation of fake currency

†1043. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that business of circulating fake currency notes is rampant in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is contemplating any step to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) On the basis of recovery and seizure of Fake Indian Currency Notes(FICN) reported by 19 designated branches of RBI; 36 States/Union Territories Records Bureaux and other

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.