

on important issues related to GST, including the goods and services that may be subjected or exempted from GST and the GST rates including the floor rates with bands. The Goods and Services Tax Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on the goods and services that may be subjected to, or exempted from the Goods and Services Tax. Therefore, the tax treatment for Low Price-High Nutrition (LPHN) biscuits under the proposed GST regime will be decided based on the recommendations of the Goods and Services Tax Council.

Loan from AIIB

4381. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any loan from the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB);

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to take loan from AIIB in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far, India has posed eleven projects for a total loan amount of about USD 3.03 billion to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. No loan agreement has been signed yet.

Waiving off farmer's loans/interest

4382. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to waive off farmer's loans/ interest; and

(b) whether the steps taken by Government have proved beneficial, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 (ADWDRS, 2008) was announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 and detailed guidelines were issued on 28.5.2008. The debt waiver portion of the ADWDRS, 2008 was closed by its due date *i.e.* 30.6.2008, while the debt relief portion of the