

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

Scheme was extended upto 30.6.2010. The Scheme benefitted 3.73 crore farmers to the extent of ₹ 52,259.86 crore.

Further, with a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India has been implementing interest subvention scheme from 2006-07. In 2016-17, Government has approved interest subvention scheme in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare for short term crop loans up to ₹ 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.

#### **Accounts opened under PMJDY in Punjab**

4383. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many accounts have been opened so far under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme in Punjab; and

(b) the details of number of accounts opened since the launch of the scheme, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As reported by banks, 53,40,154 accounts have been opened till 29.3.2017, under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana scheme in Punjab since the launch of the scheme. Details of the number of accounts opened are given in the Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Details of the number of Accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana in the State of Punjab*

(As on 29.3.2017)

Sl. No.	District	Rural	Urban	Total
1.	Amritsar	164890	205018	369908
2.	Barnala	68739	37239	105978
3.	Bathinda	152317	100180	252497
4.	Faridkot	71269	40255	111524