

Schedule 4 of the Central Excise Act, there is an automatic disincentive to inflate the MRP because higher MRP would attract higher taxes.

The Government has accepted these recommendations of the Committee.

Claims under LSPEF

2628. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Levy Sugar Price Equalization Fund (LSPEF) claims have not been released to Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation;

(b) if so, the amount of claims that have to be released and the reasons for not releasing these LSPEF claims; and

(c) whether Government intends to release these fund claims, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (LSPEF) claims are submitted by Rajasthan State Food Civil Supplies Corporation (RSFCSC) Ltd., to Food Corporation of India (FCI) for payment. FCI has informed that the RSFCSC Ltd., has submitted to them 14 supplementary bills for the period 2012-13 and 2013-14; amounting to ₹ 53,10,592.32. These bills have been processed and found to be eligible for ₹ 50,34,103.00 and payment has been released to RSFCSC Ltd., by FCI.

ICEGOV 2017 Conference

2629. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries participated in the ICEGOV 2017 Conference organised by the Government in the country;

(b) whether this was part of the Digital India initiative being carried out by Government; and

(c) if so, the details of the outcome of the conference with resolution, if any, passed in the event?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) Citizens from more than 50 countries participated in ICEGOV 2017 Conference.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. ICEGOV is a series of International Conferences on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance taking place annually around the world. The series focuses on the use of technology to transform the working of Government and its relationships with citizens, businesses and other non-State actors. The tenth edition was organized in India under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, in view of the strong resonance between the objectives of the ICEGOV series and Digital India Programme of Government of India.

There was a good response to the call for papers: 560 papers were received which is more than 3 times the earlier record of ICEGOV Conference. These papers were written by authors from over 40 different nationalities. Based on multiple reviews by an international team, 71 papers across 12 different tracks (themes), and 40 posters were selected for presentation at the conference. Additionally, apart from the opening and the closing sessions, the 3-day conference covered 6 keynotes by renowned academicians/practitioners and 4 plenary sessions. There was a doctoral colloquium on Day-4 for Ph.D students.

Amendment to the I.T. Act, 2000

2630. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering making amendment to the Information Technology Act, 2000 to bolster privacy and data security protections in the light of Government's push for a Digital Economy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government shall consider holding consultations on the proposal in line with the Pre Legislative Consultation Policy, 2014; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides adequate legal framework for data protection and privacy in the digital domain. Section 43, Section 43A, Section 72 and Section 72A of the Act provide for privacy and security of data in digital form. To address specific requirement of security arising out of Government push for digital economy, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has formulated draft rules for security of Prepaid Payment Instruments under provisions of IT Act, 2000. The draft rules have been published on MeitY website inviting public comments.