

Elimination of cess and surcharge on customs duty and direct taxes

2985. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether Government considers eliminating cess and surcharge on the customs duty and direct taxes gradually in a phased manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government to eliminate cess and surcharge on customs duty and direct taxes.

Allowances of Government employees

2986. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formed a Committee for taking decision about the allowances to the Central Government employees and removal of anomalies in their pay scales announced by the Seventh Pay Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the main features thereof and if not, the reasons for delay in submission of report; and

(d) the time by which recommendations of Seventh Pay Commission regarding the allowances are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The Committee on allowances has been constituted *vide* Order dated 22.07.2016 to examine and make recommendations as to whether any changes in the recommendations of the 7th CPC relating to allowances are warranted and if so, in what form. A separate Anomaly Committee at National Level has also been set up, *vide* O.M. dated 09.09.2016, to settle the anomalies arising out of the implementation of the 7th CPC recommendations. The National Anomaly Committee has made recommendations on the calculation methodology of the Disability Pension for Defence forces personnel. The Committee on allowances has received a large number of demands on allowances and even now receiving such demands. All the demands have been diligently examined. The Committee has already held 13 meetings so far and interacted with the representatives of Central Nodal Ministries, National Council (Staff Side), Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) and officers and representatives of employee associations of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,

Home Affairs, Railways, Defence and Department of Posts. The Committee is now in the process of finalizing its Report. Decisions on implementing the Report will be taken after the Report is submitted by the Committee.

Demand/supply of cash after demonetisation

2987. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has the capacity of printing of 16 billion pieces of currency notes per year;

(b) if so, the total number of currency notes of ₹ 1000 and ₹ 500 have been deposited after demonetisation upto 31st January, 2017;

(c) the number of pieces of ₹ 2000 and ₹ 500 have been circulated upto 31st January, 2017; and

(d) the proposed number of currency notes to be printed to balance the demand/supply of cash in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) The estimated capacity of the currency printing presses is about 24 billion banknotes per year. As of December, 10, 2016, the Specified Bank Notes of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 returned to RBI and currency chests amounted to ₹ 12.44 lakh crores. The data obtained in this regard would need to be reconciled with the physical cash balances to eliminate counterfeit notes, accounting errors/possible double counts etc., after which only the final figures will be arrived at. By January, 2017, the notes in circulation amounted to ₹ 9.921 lakh crore. The endeavour would be to supply as many notes as the public demands. The RBI monitors the demand-supply position on a continuous basis.

Dispensing of fake notes by ATMs

2988. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fake notes of 2000 rupees were dispensed by the ATM of SBI in the Capital recently and if so, what are the details of cases registered by Government;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry to find out the persons involved in the incident and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and