

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (d) Meetei/Meitei Mayek script is not there on the existing Indian banknotes. Inclusion of languages on Banknotes is a part of design and a matter of convention. Though Manipuri language in Meetei/Meiti Mayek (script) is taught in schools and colleges, there is no policy obligating that a language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution be also represented on the currency notes. Further, increase in the area of the language panel may result in shortage of space for incorporating the design elements on the banknotes.

Workshops on GST

†1839. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to organize workshops to make the people aware about Goods and Services Tax (GST);

(b) if so, the names of cities where these workshops would be organized and the duration of each workshop; and

(c) the names of experts and the businessmen who would be engaged to impart training in these workshops and since when these workshops would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government at both at the Central and States level have been organizing GST awareness campaigns through workshops all across the country to spread awareness on GST.

(b) The workshops are being conducted in a town hall format all across the country by the field formations of CBEC, with powerpoint presentations and resource material provided by National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN).

All field formations are involved in conducting these workshops, and even though a city-wise record is not maintained, an online portal has been especially created by the Directorate General of Systems, CBEC (<https://gstawareness.cbec.gov.in>) for online reporting of awareness campaigns all over India. The website, apart from capturing data of the events held, also provides information to the public on upcoming events (date and place) for their convenience.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A typical GST awareness workshop is conducted for half a day (about 3 hours). A total of 5198 workshops have been held till date (28.07.2017) all over India in almost all cities. Region-wise details are as under:—

Zones	No. of Workshops
North	1125
South	909
Central	820
East	1288
West	1056
TOTAL	5198

(c) These workshops were started in a structured manner from last week of March, 2017.

Numerous senior officers of Central Board of Excise and Customs, Commercial Taxes Department and officers trained by National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) are conducting these workshops.

No businessmen have been engaged in this regard.

Flexible pension contribution for informal workers

1840. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes for flexible pension contribution for the informal workers in the country, if so, the details of proposal therein;

(b) if not, the proposal of Government for the people with irregular incomes and particularly the women of the country who have no regular incomes; and

(c) the details of the report of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) on the pension proposal towards elderly women empowerment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has been launched by the Government of India in May, 2015, which is primarily targeted at the