THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has intimated that no decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Reduction of GST on life-saving drugs

401. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:
DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation from Indian Medical Association requesting to reduce the GST on all drugs to five per cent from twenty eight per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Medicaments, in general, attract 12% GST. Further, specified medicaments attract concessional rate of 5% GST rate. Certain representations have been received for reduction of GST rates on medicaments from 12% to 5% or Nil. The following exemptions have been granted for imports of lifesaving medicaments:

(i) Imports of Medicines/drugs/vaccines supplied free of cost by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Red Cross or an International Organization subject to specified conditions.

(ii) Imported Lifesaving Medicines for personal use supplied free of cost by verseas supplier, subject to specified conditions.

Rebate to pensioners under IT Act

402. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government pensioners are getting concession/rebate under the IT Act; and

(b) whether Government propose to give certain relief to central Government pensioners whose pension does not exceed rupees six lakhs per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) Central Government pensioners can avail of concession/ rebate under the various provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961 applicable in the case of an individual.

(b) There is currently no such proposal under consideration to give relief to central Government pensioners whose pension does not exceed rupees six lakhs per year.

Balance funds to AP under various Central Government Schemes

403. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released balance funds to Government of A.P. under various Central Government schemes to make the Government of India share as 90 per cent as announced in Special Package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether they are adjusted against the loan of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) of A.P.; and

(d) the funds released/adjusted under this package for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (d) As per one of the special assistance measures to Andhra Pradesh announced, the Central Government will special assistance measure to Government of Andhra Pradesh by way of repayment of loan and interest, as and when due, for the Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) signed and disbursed during 2015-2016 to 2019-20 by the State. This arrangement is to make up for the additional Central share the State might have received during 2015-16 to 2019-20 if the funding of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) would have been shared at the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and State. Special Assistance will be considered for release/ adjustment after audited final accounts of the State are made available.

Loan to small and marginal farmers

404. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of loans given to farmers during the last two years;

(b) the percentage of loans given to marginal and small farmers;