WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Inclusion of petrol, diesel and natural gas in GST ambit

*65. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands are pouring in for inclusion of petrol, diesel and natural gas in Goods and Services Tax (GST) ambit to bring uniformity in their price throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the reaction of Government in this respect duly taking in view the opinion expressed in public by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Certain representations have been received from various companies and trade and industry associations seeking *inter-alia* inclusion of petroleum products under GST.

Article 279 A (5) of the Constitution prescribes that the Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which the goods and services tax be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit (commonly known as petrol), natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. So far, the GST Council has not made any recommendation for inclusion of petrol, diesel and natural gas under GST.

Debt recovered and bad debts written off by PSBs

*66. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) stands at ₹9 lakh crore and over 90 per cent of it is with Public Sector Banks (PSBs);

(b) the details of debt recovered and bad debts written off by each PSB and financial institutions as on March 31, 2018;

(c) whether it is also a fact that PSBs could only recover ₹15,786 crore in first nine months of Financial Years 2017-18 and 2016-17; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) The gross advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks increased from ₹ 25,03,431 crore as on 31.3.2008 to ₹ 68,75,748 crore as on 31.3.2014, as per the global operations data of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Further, as per RBI inputs, the primary reasons for spurt in stressed assets in recent times have been observed to be, *inter-alia,* aggressive