

of the Government of India. Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, number G.S.R.I 80(E), dated the 17th February, 2016. Subsequently, the Central Government has notified investor as approved by the Inter-Ministerial Board of Certification under clause (i) of sub-para (3) of para 4 of the notification number G.S.R. 364(E), dated 11th April, 2018 of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion as a 'classes of persons'.

(c) and (d) Yes, representations have been received from start-ups requesting change in Start-up valuation. The matter is under consideration. However, as an interim measure, CBDT has instructed field authorities not to take coercive measures to recover the outstanding demand till further instructions.

#### **Bank officers' strike**

2947. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as part of the nationwide strike, bank officers working in 20 nationalised banks have gone on one day strike on 21st December, 2018 in protest against the inaction of Government in conceding their demands, including pay revision;

(b) whether the All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) has rejected the pay hike offer of three or four per cent made by Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government is taking to find an amicable solution to their demands when they have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with Government during the period of demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC), one of the four apex level officers' associations in banks, went on strike on 21.12.2018 in support of their demands, including pay revision.

(b) and (c) Wages in banks are decided every five year by way of negotiation among apex level workmen unions/officers' associations of employees and Indian Banks' Association (IBA), which negotiates on behalf of bank managements on their specific mandate. IBA has informed that an offer of 8% increase in pay slip component was given to unions/associations in the last meeting of the Negotiating Committee,

which was not agreed to by Workmen Unions/Officers' Associations. IBA has further informed that doors for further negotiation are open, keeping in view all pros and cons as well as affordability of the banks.

**Reduction of GST on Kendu (Tendu) leaves**

2948. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to reduce GST on Kendu (Tendu) leaves from 18 per cent to 5 per cent as Kendu leaf is the financial lifeline of the tribal people of Odisha and a large cross section of the people of Odisha depend on Kendu leaves for their livelihood;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether thousands of quintal of Tendu leaves are lying at different godowns because of increase of GST; and

(d) whether Government has taken any decision regarding the request of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha to reduce GST on Tendu leaves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The GST rates on goods are fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the GST Council. The GST Council has recommended 18% GST rate on Tendu leaves.

(c) No such information is available.

(d) The rate issue has been placed before the council on several occasions and deliberated. The council did not recommend any change in rate.

**Decline in circulation of Indian currency in Nepal and Bhutan**

†2949. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after demonetisation the Government of Nepal and the Government of Bhutan had instructed their citizens not to keep Indian currency with them resulting in decline in circulation of Indian currency in these countries; and

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.