

for Financial Year 2018-19 (RE) is ₹79025.74 crore. The funds have been allocated under various heads of Capital and Revenue expenditures of the Ministry. The allocation for schemes aimed to extend benefits to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category is as under:—

Scheduled Caste	=	₹ 11848.84 crore
Scheduled Tribes	=	₹6157.37 crore

(b) The details of budget allocated for Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare during the last three years are as under:—

(₹ in crore)	
Year	Budget Estimates
2015-16	24909.78
2016-17	44485.20
2017-18	51026.00

(c) Yes Sir.

Rise in Government debt liability

987. SHRI. RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Status Report on Government Debt release recently, total liabilities of the Government have increased up to 49 per cent during the last four and half years;

(b) if so, details thereof and

(c) the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Madam, as per the Status Paper on Government Debt for year 2017-18, published by the Government of India, the total outstanding liabilities (adjusted) of the Central Government stood at ₹ 77,98,848 crore at the end

of 2017-18 (Prov.) in comparison to ₹ 53,38,686 crore at the end of 2013-14, showing an increase of 46.08 per cent over this period.

(c) The level of public debt reflects the cumulative effect of Government borrowings over time, which tends to be higher for a developing economy due to the need for creating adequate infrastructure with limited revenues. Government borrowing requirements are increasing every year due to increase in the size of the budget. However, yearly borrowing as percentage of GDP have decreased from 4.5 per cent in year 2013-14 to 3.5 per cent in 2017-18 (Prov), which shows the financial consolidation path being followed by the Government. As a result of these efforts, public debt to GDP ratio has also come down to 46.5 per cent at in F.Y. 2017-18 from 47.5 per cent in the F.Y. 2013-14.

Reversion of employees to Old Pension Scheme

988. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of Central and State Governments employees under NPS have courted arrest on 21st January, 2019 against Government's decision of non-reversion of NPS to Old Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would reconsider its decision and would revert the employees to Old Pension Scheme in view of courting arrest by employees on large scale;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-frame; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The National Pension System (NPS) is applicable to Central Government employees (except armed forces) under Section 20 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Act, 2013, which was notified w.e.f 01.02.2014. Under Section 12(4) of PFRDA Act, 2013, the State Governments have been