

Incentives for Digital Transaction push

219. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any thinking going on in Government for giving incentives the way credit cards and others are giving for customers for digital transactions with an objective to push digital payments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was the first National GST Conference held recently; and

(c) if so, whether any discussion in this regard has taken place and the outcome of the same and the other recommendations made by the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has informed that presently there is no such scheme being implemented by MeitY under which incentives are being given to customers/consumers for digital transactions.

(b) and (c) Department of Revenue (DoR) has apprised that first National GST Conference was held on 25.11.2019 where no such agenda was discussed.

Utilization of Clean Environment Cess

220. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total amount of Clean Environment Cess collected, amount transferred to National Clean Energy and Environment Fund and the amount used for other purposes, year-wise till 2019-20;

(b) the details of fund used for the purposes of financing and promoting clean energy initiatives, funding research in the area of clean energy or for any other purpose relating thereto, year-wise, Ministry-wise, and project-wise for the last three years;

(c) whether Government is planning to utilise the coal cess collection to compensate the States for losses on account of GST implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (d) In the Union Budget 2016-17, the erstwhile 'Clean Energy Cess' was renamed as "Clean Environment Cess". Accordingly, the name of 'National Clean Energy Fund' (NCEF) was changed to "National Clean Energy and Environment Fund" (NCEEF). Subsequently, following the enactment of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 which has been notified in April 2017, provides that this cess, along with some other cesses have been replaced by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compensation Fund and the same is utilized to compensate the States for five years for potential losses on account of GST implementation. The amount of "Clean Environment Cess" collected during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 was ₹ 12675.60 crore, ₹ 26117.25 crore and ₹ 11463.43 crore respectively.

Release of pending funds of Finance

Commission

221. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifteenth Finance Commission visited all over the country including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States and prepared its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the discussions held and outcome so far, State-wise; and

(c) whether both the States requested to release pending funds of the Finance Commission, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) to (c) The Fifteenth Finance Commission had visited all the 28 states including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. During its visits to each State, the Commission held consultations with various stakeholders including political parties, representatives of rural local bodies and urban local bodies, representatives of industry bodies and trade associations. It also held detailed discussions with the respective Chief Ministers and State Finance Departments to understand the fiscal needs and performance of each of the States. The Commission had also made field visits during such visits.