Status of special grant to Karnataka

1030. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of 15th Finance Commission Report and by when it is likely to submit the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per 15th Finance Commission's award for 2020-21, Karnataka got a steep cut of 23 per cent as compared to 14th Finance Commission's award due to Income Distance criteria;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether 15th Finance Commission has recommended special grants and ₹ 5,495 crore allotted to Karnataka; and

(e) if so, status of the above grants and by when the Ministry is going to release the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) Sir, the 15th Finance Commission has to submit its report on or before 30th October, 2020, as per its Terms of Reference.

(b) and (c) 15th Finance Commission in its report for the year 2020-21 has recommended an inter-se share of States of 3.646% for Karnataka compared to 4.713% during 2015-16 to 2019-20 and as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

(d) and (e) Finance Commission recommended that special grants be provided to Karnataka amounting to ₹ 5,495 cr. The Government of India through the 'Explanatory Memorandum as to the action taken on the recommendations made by 15th Finance Commission', and as placed in Parliament on 1st February 2020, has requested the Commission to reconsider the said recommendation since these grants introduce a new principle.

Measures to increase private consumption

1031. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take any steps to increase private consumption in the economy via cash transfers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) and (b) On May 12 2020, Government announced the Atmanirbhar (AN) Package, a special economic and comprehensive package of ₹ 20 lakh crores - equivalent to 10 per cent of India's GDP - to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. The package is pivoted on five pillars *viz.*, quantum jump in economy; infrastructure; system based on 21st century technology driven arrangements; vibrant demography and demand. Under the AN package, Government has implemented several measures, which, inter-alia, include measures to increase private consumption in the economy:—

(i) Relief measures for households under Pradhan Matri Garib Kalyan Yojana such as in-kind (food; cooking gas) and cash transfers to senior citizens, widows, disabled, women Jan Dhan Account holders, farmers; insurance coverage for workers in the healthcare sector; and wage increase for MGNREGA workers and support for building and construction workers, collateral free loans to self-help groups, reduction in EPF contributions and employment provision for migrant workers under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan, amongst others.

(ii) Relief measures for businesses and MSMEs such as ₹ 3 lakh crore collateral-free lending program with 100 percent credit guarantee for businesses including MSMEs, ₹ 20,000 crore subordinate debt for stressed MSMEs with partial guarantee, ₹ 45,000 partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0 for non-bank financial companies (NBFCs), housing finance companies (HFCs) to do fresh lending to MSMEs, ₹ 50,000 crore equity infusion for MSMEs through Fund of Funds, amongst others, amongst others.

Around 42 crore poor people have received financial assistance of ₹ 68,820 crore out of which the major components are as below:—

(i) ₹ 17,891 crore front loaded towards payment of the first instalment of PM-KISAN to 8.94 crore beneficiaries.

(ii) ₹ 10,325 crore credited to 20.65 crore (100%) women Jan Dhan account holders as first instalment. ₹ 10,315 crore credited to 20.63 crore (100%) women Jan Dhan account holders with second instalment. ₹ 10,312 crore credited to 20.62 crore (100%) women Jan Dhan account holders with third instalment.

(iii) Total ₹ 2,814.5 crore disbursed to about 2.81 crore old age persons, widows and disabled persons in two instalments. Benefits transferred to all 2.81 crore beneficiaries in two instalments.

(iv) 1.82 crore Building & construction workers received financial support amounting to ₹ 4,987.18 crore.

The implementation of the package is reviewed and monitored regularly. The phased relaxation of the lockdown, supported by the enabling policies of the Government, has resulted in much higher level of activity in the months of July, August and September. This is evident in growth of high frequency indicators like PMI Manufacturing, index of eight core industries, E-way bills, Kharif sowing, power consumption, railway freight and cargo traffic. Uptick in passenger vehicle sales, tractor sales and digital retail financial transactions augurs well for private consumption sentiment.

Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act

1032. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of taxpayers who have opted for the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act since its enactment; and

(b) the revenue generated till date through the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): (a) The number of taxpayers who have opted for the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Act since its enactment:- Total 35,074 Form- 1 (Declaration under the scheme) have been submitted till 8th September, 2020.

(b) The revenue generated till date through the Act is ₹ 9538 Crore. This figure does not include the payments made by the taxpayers who arc yet to file their declarations under the Scheme. The time-limit for filing of declaration under trie scheme has been extended till 31st December, 2020.

Cut in rate of interest

†1033. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of depositors affected by cut in the interest rates at being provided on small saving schemes by Government;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.