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Title: The Minister of Finance made a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 36th and 37th Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance pertaining to Ministry of Finance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 36th and 37th Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance, pertaining to the Ministry of Finance.

I deem it my privilege to make a statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 36th Report relating to Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of Direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II dated 1st September 2004.

The 36th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd May 2006. It related to Demands for Grants (2006-07) of Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure & Disinvestment). In the Report, the Committee deliberated on various issues and made twenty (20) recommendations where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like Agricultural Credit extended by Private Banks, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, NABARD, proposed amendment of

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 5752/06

DRT Act , Micro Finance Sector/Institutions, lending rates, bench mark fixed by RBI, Non life public sector insurance companies-upgrading the operation and quality of services, proposed MOUs, Public Sector General Insurance Companies. implementation of Universal Health Insurance Scheme (UHIS), Investor Protection Fund, IPO – Demat Scam, FRBM road map and goals, White Paper on Disinvestment, National Investment Fund and Appointment of CEO of National Investment Fund.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/Observations contained in the Report have been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance on 6th September and 14th November 2006. Present status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in the 36th Report is indicated in Annexure A.

The 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha/laid in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd May 2006. It relates to the Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue). In the Report, the Committee deliberated on various issues and made recommendations where action is called on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to issues like income tax refunds, recovery of direct and indirect tax arrears, exemptions, court cases involving tax matters, restructuring and computerization of CBEC and CEDT. Out of the 16 recommendations, the Government has accepted 13 recommendations and partly accepted one recommendation. Two recommendations have been found to be not feasible to accept.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report were furnished to the Standing Committee on Finance on 16th October 2006. Present status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in the Thirty Seventh Report is indicated in Annexure B.

I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of the Annexures. I would request that these may be taken as read.
