

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2159
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2019

IDENTIFICATION OF BANKNOTES BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED

2159. SHRI HIBI EDEN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for aiding visually impaired in identification of denomination of banknotes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is also a proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the life of Indian banknotes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) : Indian banknotes have several features which enable the visually impaired (colour blind, partially sighted and blind people) to identify them, viz., intaglio printing and tactile mark, variable banknote size, large numerals, variable colour, monochromatic hues and patterns. Once the old series banknotes are withdrawn from circulation, identification of the new series banknotes will automatically become easy for the visually impaired. As indicated in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies of June 6, 2018, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has embarked upon exploring alternative technological solutions to help the visually impaired in identifying the denomination of banknotes. Accordingly RBI is in the process of developing a mobile application (both iOS and Android) for aiding the visually impaired in identification of denomination of banknotes.

(c) & (d): RBI will introduce varnished banknotes of ₹100 denomination in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series on a field trial basis in order to increase the life of Indian banknotes.
