United Kingdom - Restrictions, if any, can only be imposed with the approval of British Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA). Airports can apply to the CAA for the number of suppliers or self-handlers to be limited.

United States - There is not much of a separate ground handling industry in the US; it is nearly all airline self-handling and some airport-provided services. There are few places where airlines are not permitted to self-handle.

Asia- Ground Handling servies are provided by two companies; Singapore Airport Terminal Services and Changi International Airport Services.

Australia - The principal suppliers of services in Australia are the two major Australian carriers, AnSett Australia and Qantas Airways.

(c) Salient features of existing Ground Handling Policy are enumerated at (a) above.

(d) to (f) The Airline operators had expressed their concerns about the new Ground Handling Policy. The matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after undertaking a comprehensive review and with inter-ministerial consultation.

Efforts to get information from Swiss banks

†466. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has made efforts to receive information from Government of Switzerland regarding money deposited by Indian Citizens in the banks of Switzerland;

(b) if so, the efforts so made and when such efforts were made; and

(c) the estimates made by Government regarding quantum of money deposited with Swiss banks by Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Efforts have been made from time to time to seek such information under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Swiss Confederation. However, the Swiss Federal Tax Administration has expressed its inability to exchange the information regarding bank deposits of Indian residents as the information was not necessary for the application of the DTAA between India and Swiss Confederation but was required only for the enforcement of Indian internal laws. They also replied that such information was not at their disposal under Swiss laws in the normal course of tax administration.

Further, in connection with the investigation of specific cases. Directorate of Enforcement, if deemed necessary seeks information from foreign jurisdiction in respect of accounts held by Indian Nationals/entities in banks located overseas. However, no roving enquiries are made.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There is no verifiable information available about money deposited with Swiss banks by Indians.

Indians holding accounts in Swiss banks

467. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has approached Switzerland seeking details about bank accounts held by Indians in Swiss banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Swiss authorities thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Efforts have been made from time to time to seek such details under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Swiss Confederation. However, the Swiss Federal Tax Administration has expressed its inability to exchange the information regarding bank deposits of Indian residents as the information was not necessary for the application of the DTAA between India and Swiss Confederation but was required only for the enforcement of Indian internal laws. They also replied that such information was not at their disposal under Swiss laws in the normal course of tax administration.

Further, in connection with the investigation of specific cases, Directorate of Enforcement, if deemed necessary seeks information from foreign jurisdiction in respect of accounts held by Indian Nationals/entities in banks located overseas. However, no roving enquiries are made.

Plans for disinvestment in PSUs

468. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn out a plan for disinvestment in a number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details of these PSUs and the extent of disinvestment planned; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)The policy on disinvestment articulated in the President's Speech to Joint Session of Parliament on 4th June, 2009 and Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 6th July, 2009 requires the development of "people ownership" of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to share in their wealth and prosperity, with Government retaining majority shareholding and control. This objective is relevant to profit-earning CPSUs as it is only these that will sustain investor-interest for sharing in their prosperity.