

6. In order to facilitate exchange of information, two Income Tax Overseas Units (ITOUs) within the Indian Mission have been created in Singapore and Mauritius and officers have been posted therein. In addition to this, it has been decided to create 8 more such units in USA, UK, Netherlands, Japan, Cyprus, Germany, France and UAE.
7. India has been actively taking part, through G-20, in building global consensus for taking action against those jurisdictions/countries who are not transparent or co-operative in exchanging information with other countries. India has also been elected, in September, 2009, as Vice-Chair of the Peer Review Group set up by the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information, which is playing an important role in reviewing various jurisdictions in terms of compliance with international standards on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes. Three of Indian assessors have also been nominated for the Peer Review Process.

#### **Surveillance cameras in banks and ATMs**

2962. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all banks and ATMs have installed surveillance cameras which are functioning; and
- (b) if not, the steps taken to provide for this facility to ensure safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that some banks have installed surveillance cameras in their Automated Teller Machine (ATM) locations, whereas, some of the banks are using their CCTV connection to their on-site ATMs from their respective branch. However, most of the ATMs are having in-built cameras on their ATMs which have the configuration to capture images with transaction details. Although, a limited number of old ATMs do not have this facility and as such these banks propose to replace the old ATMs in a phased manner.

#### **Enforcement of interest rate on PF deposit**

2963. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to increase the rate of interest to 9.5 per cent on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the year 2010-11;
- (b) whether Government also proposes to raise the rate of interest on Public Provident Fund (PPF)/Provident Fund (PF);

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the private trusts managing EPF expressed their difficulty to match return that Government has offered; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure that the decision on increased interest on EPF is strictly implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No decision has been taken with regard to increasing the rate of interest to 9.5 per cent on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for the year 2010-11.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) and General Provident Fund (GPF) and similar funds were fixed as per Dr. Reddy Committee's Recommendations. Accordingly, these rates were benchmarked to average secondary market yields on Government securities of similar maturity.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

#### **Clearance of same bank cheques by SBI**

2964. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that same branch cheques of State Bank of India (SBI) are required to be cleared the same day;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a number of SBI branches in VIP areas of New Delhi failed to meet this target;
- (c) the number of same branch cheques which were cleared after two or more days in SBI branches in New Delhi during the current year so far, branch-wise; and
- (d) the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to improve the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that same branch cheques are paid on the same day and cheques drawn on any branch of the bank, locally or outstation, will normally be paid on the same day/next day depending upon the local situations, barring a few exceptional circumstances, viz. insufficient balance, non availability of drawing power, un-cleared balance, same cheque number already paid, any lien stop/hold restriction, statutory, regulatory or other-wise, marked on the account, exceeding limit in case of loan account etc.

(c) and (d) No such instance has been reported to the bank and the present system is working satisfactorily.