

(c) According to information furnished by the National Council of Applied Economic Research no surveys on the extent of black money in the country have been conducted by them.

Island Special Allowance for Bank Staff

1238. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Island (hard area allowance) Special Allowance is given @ 25 percent of basic pay to all the Central Government employees posted in the Nicobar District irrespective of the fact whether they are from Andaman and Nicobar Islands or not;

(b) whether such a facility is not available to the officers/staff of Nationalised Banks posted at Nicobar District; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to extend this benefit to the Nationalised Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such a facility to the officers/staff of most of the nationalized banks posted at Nicobar district is available in the form of a special allowance.

(c) Does not arise.

Non-Receipt of option letters of UTI Schemes

1239. SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UTI has not responded to letters from investor in respect of schemes that were foreclosed, like Children Gift Growth Fund in April this year;

(b) if so, the fate of the investments made by the investors in this scheme who failed to exercise any option under the scheme due to non-receipt of option letters sent by UTI; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct UTI to immediately inform such investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As informed by the Specified Undertaking of the UTI (SUUTI), the Registrars of the foreclosed schemes including Children's Gift Growth Fund (CGGF) have confirmed that they have responded to the letters/option forms received from the unit holders. Based on the option exercised, either the redemption amount was paid or the proceeds were converted to the Assured Return Scheme (ARS) Bonds guaranteed by the Government of India.

(b) CGGF-86, CGGF-99, Rajlakshmi Unit Plan (RUP)-94, and RUP-99 were launched in the years 1986, 1999, 1994 and 1999 respectively. The total number of investors were around 36 lakhs. A number of investors had not indicated the guardian's name, to whom reminder letters have been sent. In other cases, where no option was exercised within the stipulated time by the unit holders, the redemption proceeds were converted into ARS Bonds.

(c) As and when any such case is brought to the notice of the Government, SUUTI is advised to take appropriate action in the matter.

Pending Cases under PCA and FERA

1240. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases under Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) and the erstwhile Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) have been pending in various courts, including the special courts since long;

(b) the details of number of cases pending and volume of money/ assets accrued to the accused in respective instances by their alleged acts of violation of law as per the complaint in each prosecution case, age-wise;

(c) whether steps have been taken to track down the funds/assets so accrued with details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?