

(a) whether the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), the corporate investigating body, has been asking for powers to carry out investigation abroad to trace money stashed abroad by corporates; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government, so far, and the progress made by SFIO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the jurisdiction of Companies Act, 1956 under which the SFIO is functioning is restricted to the territory of India. Investigation regarding diversion of funds outside the country, is being carried on by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) for which they have the requisite powers.

Seismic monitors to study earthquakes in Koyna region

1918. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to place a network of seismic monitors 8 km. below ground level at Koyna, which has historically been associated with several earthquakes of various degrees of seriousness as an ambitious attempt to bolster its earthquake prediction capabilities and to better understand seismic region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed project could be the deepest network of sensors lodged in the earth's crust and could predict the intensity and occurrence of earthquakes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Efforts are underway to build a new scientific initiative especially to understand the seismic activity of Koyna region in more detail by drilling deep-bore holes below the ground to place a network of seismic sensors. For this purpose, MoU has been signed on 7th January, 2011 with German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) on behalf of the International Continental Scientific Drilling Programme (ICDP) for an initial period of 5 years. An international workshop is planned at Hyderabad and Koyna during 21-25 March, 2011 to develop a science plan to take up studies related to seismicity of the Koyna region.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Norway polar research

1919. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state: