

- (ii) Creating an appropriate legislative framework;
- (iii) Setting up institutions for dealing with Illicit funds;
- (iv) Developing systems for implementation; and
- (v) Imparting skills to the manpower for effective action.

Black money deposited in Swiss Bank

†2041. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has not sought any details from Swiss Banks regarding black money reportedly deposited there;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government to bring back this black money to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Efforts have been made by the Central Government from time to time to seek details of the bank accounts held by Indians in Switzerland under the existing 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 citizens 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.

Since in terms of existing DTAA between India and Swiss Confederation, it has not been possible to obtain information regarding bank deposits in Switzerland, Switzerland was approached in April, 2009 for re-negotiation of the Article concerning Exchange of Information in our existing DTAA so that we can have access to banking information as well as information without Swiss domestic interest. Switzerland agreed for re-negotiation of this Article as well as other Articles of the existing DTAA and the Protocol amending the Agreement and Protocol between the Government of Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income (Amending Protocol) has been signed at New Delhi on 30 August, 2010. One of the salient features of this Amending Protocol is that the Article on Exchange of Information has been amended to specifically provide for exchange of banking information as well as information without domestic interest. The Amending Protocol shall enter

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

into force on completion of internal procedure by Switzerland. Upon entry into force, India would be able to get banking information from Switzerland in specific cases for any period beginning with 1st April, 2011 or thereafter.

Impact of loan-waiver scheme

2042. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the impact of the loan waiver/relief scheme on the Indian economy;
- (b) the amount waived by each of the bank and the number of beneficiary under the scheme;
- (c) the amount given by the banks as debt relief including the number of beneficiary;
- (d) whether the banks could recover the amount under debt relief;
- (e) if so, the amount the banks have recovered under debt relief, bank-wise;
- (f) whether the amount so waived by the banks have been reimbursed to all the banks; and
- (g) if not, by when it will be done so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (g) The Government of India's Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme (ADWDRS), 2008 aimed at de-clogging the lines of credit to farmers that were clogged due to the debt burden and to entitle these farmers to fresh credit. All agricultural loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Cooperative Banks (including Urban Cooperative Banks) and Local Area Banks (LABs) upto 31st March, 2007, overdue as on 31st December, 2007 and that remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 were covered under the Scheme. The Scheme was applicable to all farmers eligible under the Scheme and there was no discrimination against a section of farmers.

In the case of small or marginal farmers (cultivating upto 2 ha. or 5 acres of land), the entire 'eligible amount' was waived. In the case of 'other farmers' (cultivating more than 2 ha. or 5 acres of land), there was one time settlement (OTS) Scheme under which these farmers were to be given a debt relief by way of rebate of 25 per cent of the 'eligible amount' subject to the condition that the farmer pays the balance of 75 per cent of the 'eligible amount'. The Government had extended the last date for the OTS for 'other farmers' upto 30.6.2010.

Reserve Bank of India (the nodal agency for the implementation of the Scheme in respect of Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, Local Area Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks) has reported that so far under Debt Waiver Scheme, 86.64 lakh farmers have been benefited to