

Incorporation of informal sector into mainstream economy

2210. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the informal economy contributes to about two thirds of India's GDP;
- (b) whether there is any institutional and legislative framework that regulates, monitors and supports this sector;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Government plans on creating such a framework for the same to incorporate the informal sector into the mainstream formal economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):

(a) As per information/material provided by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, the contribution of informal/unorganized/unregistered economy to GDP during the 6 years (2004-05 to 2009-10) ranged between 54 percent to 56 percent of GDP at current prices.

(b) to (e) As per information/material provided by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Government with a view to providing social security to the workers in the unorganized sector, has enacted the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board to recommend social security schemes viz life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Government for unorganized workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000/- to such workers, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme has been extended to certain occupational groups in unorganized sector.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana'.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 60 years and living below the poverty line. For the persons above the age of 80 years, the amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month.

Constitution of committees to probe black money

†2211. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that several committees related to various aspects of black money within country and abroad have been constituted so far by Government during 2010 and 2011;
- (b) if so, when and under whose Chairmanship these committees were constituted;
- (c) the responsibility assigned to each committee; and
- (d) the name of the committees which have started functioning till 13 July, 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) :
(a) to (d) The Government has formed a High Level Committee (HLC) on 22nd April, 2011, under the chairmanship of Revenue Secretary. The main objective of the Committee is to ensure exchange of relevant information from on-going investigations into alleged economic offences in order to facilitate a coordinated investigation/prosecution by different law enforcement agencies. Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 4th July, 2011 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 176 of 2009 has directed that the High Level Committee constituted by Union of India be forthwith appointed with immediate effect as a Special Investigation Team headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy as Chairman and Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.B. Shah as Vice-Chairman. The Government has filed a review petition against the order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Government has constituted another Committee on 27th May, 2011 headed by the Chairman, CBDT to examine ways to strengthen laws to curb generation of black-money in India, its illegal transfer abroad and its recovery. The Committee shall examine the existing legal and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.