

end of 12th Plan (2017). To encourage creation of affordable housing stock the existing schemes of Affordable Housing in Partnership and Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor have been dovetailed into RAY.

Re-opening of IT cases

3475. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is considering to re-open cases similar to the Vodafone Income Tax case;
- (b) if so, the details thereof with the names of such companies;
- (c) whether re-opening of such cases prior to time limit of six years will have negative impact on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); and
- (d) if so, the reasons for re-opening of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The decision to reopening or not reopening a case, under Section 148 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is taken by the assessing officer on the basis of facts and circumstances of each case . The Government has not issued any direction in this regard.

(c) Because of the limitation provided under section 149 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, no case can be reopened beyond the period of six years from the end of relevant assessment year, even if clarificatory amendments date back to an earlier period. In any case, the clarificatory amendments proposed in the Finance Bill, 2012 will not have any impact on foreign direct investment flow in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Signing of TIEA with Switzerland and other countries

†3476. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has signed any tax treaty regarding Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with Government of Switzerland and other 15 countries which will enable India to get the specific information regarding black money and tax evasion;
- (b) if so, the number of the countries who have provided the information regarding the tax evasion due to black money deposited in foreign countries; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of Indians who have deposited the money in foreign countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) India has concluded negotiation of the Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) with 17 countries/jurisdictions. They are Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Congo, Costa Rica, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liberia, Macau, Marshall Islands, Monaco and Saint Kitts and Nevis. TIEAs with Bermuda, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Isle of Man have entered into force. Under these TIEAs, India can obtain specific information on black money and tax evasion cases.

India has not signed a TIEA with Switzerland. However, India has concluded negotiation of 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). This Amending Protocol was signed at New Delhi on 30th August, 2010. This Amending Protocol has entered into force on 7th October, 2011. The new provision of the exchange of information allow exchange of banking information in specific cases, that relate to fiscal year beginning on or after 1st April, 2011.

(b) and (c) India has obtained a number of information on tax evasion on account of the black money stashed abroad, from various countries. However, the information so obtained is protected under the confidentiality provision of the DTAA/TIEA under which the information has been obtained.

Shifting of LCS from Mahadipur

3477. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is considering any proposal to shift the Land Customs Station (LCS) from Mahadipur in the district of Malda, West Bengal keeping in view the rampant air pollution caused due to plying of hundreds of goods vehicles at Indo-Bangladesh Border resulting to degradation and spoliation of the 17 Ancient Monuments of Gaur dynasty in the vicinity being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if, so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to shift the Mahadipur Land Customs Station, District of Malda, West Bengal to any other location.

(b) Nil, in view of above.