

Posting of it Officers in Offshore Countries

2066. SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Officers will be posted in offshore haven countries and various other countries to spot suspicious transactions by Indian residents who use these jurisdictions to escape tax and launder money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the offshore countries where the I.T. Officers will be posted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) :

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Tax officers at the level of First Secretary are being posted to Income-tax Overseas Units (ITOU) in Indian Missions abroad to maintain effective coordination and liaison between Indian tax authorities and the tax authorities of countries concerned. At present, the officers are already posted in Mauritius and Singapore. Further, posting orders in respect of officers to be posted to newly created ITOUs in Indian missions at Cyprus, France, Germany, Netherlands, UAE, UK and USA have been issued and posting order in respect of officer to be posted to Japan will be issued shortly. The relieving of these 8 officers to join their respective ITOU is pending due to finalisation of terms & conditions of their posting by Ministry of External Affairs.

Classification of MFIs As NBFCs

2067. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM : Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move by Government to classify the Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs) as Non-Banking Financial Corporations (NBFCs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that MFIs in the country are facing numerous hardships, especially in Andhra Pradesh where one third of the total MFI sector in the country are operating; and

(d) the steps taken by Government or proposing to take to help the Micro Financial Sector in the country ?

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

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a new category of NBFCs namely 'Non Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions' (NBFC-MFIs) was introduced on 2.12.2011 under new regulatory framework including regulation on capital