at all levels and it should permeate into all the activities, processes, operations and transactions of the enterprise. Corporate enterprises professing to behave responsibly are expected to produce goods and services that are safe and healthy for the consumers and the environment, with reduced cost to the company in the long run.

(xv) 5% of the annual budget for CSR and Sustainability activities has to be earmarked for Emergency needs, which would include relief work undertaken during natural calamities/disasters, and contributions towards Prime Minister's/Chief Minister's Relief Funds.

(xvi) Ethical conduct of business lies at the core of responsible business. To promote organisational integrity it is essential that premium is placed on individual probity of employees; transparency in all activities, dealings and transactions is encouraged; unethical, corrupt and anti-competition practices are discouraged; temptation of quick returns and marginal gains in business through questionable means is resisted; and, positions and situations that give rise to possible conflict of interest are avoided.

(xvii) Sustainability reporting and disclosure of all CSR and Sustainability activities undertaken by a CPSE is mandatory. By reporting transparently and with accountability, public sector companies can gain and reinforce the trust of the stakeholders. This, in turn, would provide a powerful stimulus to their CSR and Sustainability policies and agenda, and motivate them to pursue them with greater vigour.

Financial frauds in Assam

*203. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of large scale financial frauds committed by a number of dubious financial firms/organisations/institutions in Assam, engaged in hoodwinking and siphoning off money belonging to common people in name of providing lucrative returns against investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the particulars of such financial organizations that have been set up and their present status in Assam;

(c) the details of action taken by Government against such organisations; and

(d) the details of criterion fixed and provisions being made by Government to regulate and resist such practice of duping of money by such organisations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it is aware of few companies collecting money from common people in the State of Assam, in the name of providing lucrative return against investment, which appears to be in the nature of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS). The provisions of section 12 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (SEBI Act) prohibit raising of money through CIS without obtaining a Certificate of Registration from SEBI. Further, SEBI has issued the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999.

SEBI has passed directions against two such companies, namely, M/s Rose Valley Real Estate & Construction Ltd. and M/s MPS Greenery Developers Ltd.; which were found carrying out activities of CIS without obtaining registration from SEBI, SEBI has restrained M/s Rose Valley Real Estate & Construction Ltd. from (i) collecting any money from investors or introducing any new scheme, (ii) disposing of any properties or accumulating any assets (iii) diverting funds received from the public or kept in any bank account or custody of the company until further orders. M/s. MPS Greenery Developers Ltd was directed to wind up its schemes and refund the money collected by it under the schemes with returns, due to the investors.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registered with it has been observed to be flouting any guidelines of RBI in Assam. However, Guwahati Regional Office of RBI has received complaints that certain entities are accepting money through various schemes such as booking of plots, booking of holiday packages, issuing Non-Convertible Debentures and Redeemable Preference Shares to the public alluring them with high returns. RBI has received 27 such complaints pertaining to Assam between April, 2012 and 7th March, 2013. These entities are not registered with RBI as NBFCs. Therefore, RBI has forwarded the complaints to the appropriate authorities including the Economic Offenses Wing (EOW) of the State Police for taking necessary action against the erring entities.

(d) To curb the financial frauds committed by the companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956, adequate statutory provisions already exist in the Act, such as, regulation of public deposits (section 58A), reporting of default in repayment of deposits of the small depositors (section 58AA), default arising out of acceptance of deposits in violation of section 58A and default in repayment under section 58AA to be cognizable offence (section 58AAA), inspection (section 209A), investigation (section

235/237), scrutiny of documents (section 234), search and seizure (section 240A) and on penalties and prosecutions, *etc.* SEBI notified the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 to regulate Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in the interest of the investors and the securities market. In terms of the provisions contained in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, RBI is empowered to act against the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) which accept public deposits and do not repay.

Further, at the instance of RBI, 14 States and 2 Union Territories (UTs), including the State of Assam, have enacted special laws to protect the interest of depositors in financial institutions, which adequately empower the State agencies to take action against any scheme promising abnormal return. The State Government of Assam enacted the Assam Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishment) Act, 2000 to take appropriate action against dubious financial establishments in the State. The Government and RBI have requested the remaining States and UTs, which have not enacted special law to protect the depositors, to enact such law so that there is no vacuum in the regulation of deposit taking activity by the financial institutions and other entities.

Sharing of infrastructure by ONGC with RIL

204. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to resort to 'infrastructure-sharing-gas-pumping' arrangement with Reliance Industries Limited(RIL) around Krishna Godavari(KG) basin, to enabling ONGC to bring its own fields onstream;

(b) if so, whether this would be a long-term or a short-term arrangement; and

(c) whether this step is being taken to meet the shortage in crude gas production of RIL which has fallen to 27-28 million cubic metres per day from 61 million cubic metres due to chocking of various wells?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) ONGC has discovered several hydrocarbon fields in different offshore and onshore areas of East Coast of Krishna Godavari (KG) Basin. A team of ONGC officers has been constituted to carry out technical feasibility for development of some of these fields so as to reduce cost of development and early monetization. The studies are at preliminary stage. The team of technical officers is also evaluating various short-term and long-term options, including sharing of infrastructure with RIL.

(c) No, Sir.