

provide finance upto ₹ 15,000/- at a concessional rate of interest of 4% per annum to the weaker sections of the community for engaging in productive and gainful activities. In order to ensure that persons belonging to SCs/STs also derive adequate benefit under the DRI Scheme, banks have been advised to grant loans to eligible borrowers belonging to SCs/STs and such advances should not be less than 2/5th (40%) of total DRI advances.

(iv) **Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavenger (SRMS)** - The Scheme contains provision for capital subsidy, concessional loans and capacity building for rehabilitation of manual scavengers in alternative occupations. Both, term loan (up to maximum cost of ₹5.00 lakh) and micro financing (up to a maximum of ₹25,000/-) will be admissible under the Scheme. The rate of interest chargeable to the beneficiaries will be as follows:-

- (a) (i) For projects up to ₹25,000/- 4% per annum (for women beneficiaries)
- (ii) Others - 5% per annum
- (b) For projects above ₹25,000/- 6% per annum.

#### **Illegal accounts in foreign banks**

1019. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had forwarded the list of 627 names holding illegal accounts in foreign banks to Special Investigation Team (SIT) as early as in June, this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by SIT since then, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Government submitted a list of 628 persons having bank accounts in HSBC in Switzerland, as received under India-France Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC), along with status of investigation in this regard, to the SIT, in June 2014.

(b) The information received under the DTAC is, *inter-alia*, governed by the confidentiality clause. Information so received can be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals

in relation to, the taxes or the oversight of these proceedings. As per the Government's Notification dated 29th May 2014, the SIT is responsible to the Hon'ble Supreme Court and is charged with the duty to keep the Hon'ble Supreme Court informed of all major developments by filing of periodic status reports and following of any special orders that the Hon'ble Supreme Court may issue from time-to-time. The Government has been furnishing all the desired information to the SIT and implementing its directions. The SIT has submitted its first report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 20th August 2014.

**Sharing of information on black money by foreign countries**

1020. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Swiss Government has agreed to share information that it has with regard to stashing of black money in Swiss banks;

(b) if so, the details of success that Government could achieve with Swiss Government;

(c) whether Swiss Government has agreed to provide information relating to accounts of HSBC List;

(d) whether any such consultations have been held or is going to be held with Germany; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any possibility of bringing back black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The positive and significant outcome of the meeting of Indian delegation with a High Level Swiss delegation in Bern, Switzerland, on 15.10.2014, with regards to sharing of banking information by Switzerland is summarized below:

- (i) Switzerland has indicated willingness to provide information in respect of cases where investigations have been carried out by the Income Tax Department independently from what Swiss Government considers as stolen data.

This development is very significant because there are a number of cases of account holders included in the HSBC list which were investigated by our Income Tax Department independent of the HSBC list obtained from the