Money laundering activities in Kanchi Mutt

3332. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:
SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:
SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:
SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive money laundering activities by the Kanchi Mutt amounting to more than ₹ 3900/- crores, has come to the light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the role of the State Government of Karnataka to unearth the whole scam;

(d) whether Government proposes to hand over the investigations to CBI in order to expedite the process of enquiry;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Enforcement Directorate has not registered any case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) in this matter.

(c) No such information has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(d) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) and (c) above.

Unemployment of domestic commercial pilots

3333. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of Indian commercial pilots are unemployed;

(b) if so, the number of trained unemployed commercial pilots in our country; and

(c) the number of foreign pilots given employment under Foreign Aircrew Temporary Authorization (FATA) Extension, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no such data is available in the Ministry. Employment opportunities for pilots are dependent on the growth in the sector. In recent times, the growth in the aviation sector has been sluggish due to slowdown in the economy.

(c) The total number of foreign pilots employed by various aviation companies as on 30th September, 2014 is 285.

There is shortage of type rated Commanders in the country due to growth in aviation industry and induction of new aircraft in the fleet of the airlines. However, sufficient number of co-pilots are available and employed with airlines. These co-pilots do not possess sufficient training and experience as required to become commander on that type of aircraft.

To cover the shortage of commanders and to provide experience and training to above mentioned co-pilots so that they can be upgraded to commanders, validation of foreign pilots is done as per CAR Section-7, Flight Crew Standards, Series "G" Part-II dated 01st December, 2010. The strength of foreign pilots has decreased in the subsequent years as more and more Indian co-pilots are upgraded to commanders. The Government has restricted the validation of foreign pilots up to 31st December, 2016.

Special Courts for cheque bounce cases

3334. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than four million cheque bounce cases are clogging the country's legal system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to establish Special Courts to try cheque bounce cases only; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) As per the information obtained by the Government from High Courts, as on 31.12.2013, there were 20,92,013 cheque bouncing cases pending in subordinate courts and 41,994 cases were pending in High Courts.

As on 31.12.2013, there were 257 number of Special Courts functioning in States / Union Territories to try cheque bounce cases.