

On 03.11.2014, cognizance was taken against the charge sheeted accused persons and companies.

In another case RC 04/S/2014-(SIT)-Kol. Charge sheet was filed on 17.11.2014 in the court of Ld. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, Kolkata against 7 accused persons and 4 companies. On 18.11.2014 cognizance was taken against the charge sheeted accused persons and companies. On 21.11.2014, another accused person was arrested.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office has given its inspection report in the Saradha Group of cases to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). Based on the report, prosecution for violations of provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, has been sanctioned by MCA.

Illegal Money Laundering

236. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has noticed illegal money laundering taking place from Hong Kong based units by way of imports and exports with duplicate documents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Special Investigation Team (SIT) is enquiring into the matter to evaluate the facts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, please.

(b) (i) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has initiated an investigation and discovered that one individual based at Ghaziabad along with his brother remitted about ₹ 480 crores to Hong Kong showing it as payment for import of computer parts and accessories through Foreign Post Office (FPO). The documents submitted to the Authorized Dealer to show such import having taken place were found to be forged; (ii) In another case, DRI investigation revealed that one importer based at Chennai had fabricated bill of entry for transfer of money of ₹ 240 crores abroad through banking channel; (iii) In another similar case, investigated by Customs (Preventive), Mumbai revealed that a syndicate having group of companies had misused import documents to show as legitimate imports and remitted ₹ 935 crores of foreign exchange outside India.

(c) and (d) SIT is monitoring a number of cases. It shall be submitting its report to Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time.

Restriction on third party ATM withdrawal

237. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to restrict number of free withdrawals from third party ATMs to two from the existing five transactions in cities;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to increase the transaction fee of ₹20 for every transaction at non-home ATM banking machines;

(c) the reasons for taking these measures which are detrimental to the account holders; and

(d) the details of ATM network of nationalized and private banks in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directives to Banks under Section 10(2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007), that the number of mandatory free transactions for savings bank account customers at other banks' ATMs is reduced from the present five to three transactions per month (inclusive of both financial and non-financial transactions) for transactions done at the ATMs located in the six metro centres, viz. Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. The banks can offer more than three free transactions at other bank ATMs to their account-holders.

(b) No, Sir

(c) The decision was taken by Reserve Bank of India in view of the Indian Banks' Association's plea for removal of free transactions at other banks ATMs at metro centres and other large townships in the country in view of the growing cost of ATM deployment and maintenance incurred by banks on the one hand as well as the rising interchange out-go due to these free transactions.

(d) The details of ATM network of nationalized and private banks in the country are given in the Statement.