

could not be saved or recovered. The boat burnt and sank in the same position, in early hours of 1st January, 2015. Since the boat sank, Coast Guard ships maintained continuous presence in the area for recovery of any survivors, dead bodies or debris from the boat. Coast Guard Dornier aircraft also searched the area, however, no survivors, dead bodies or debris from the boat could be found in the area.

Post interception of the boat on 1st January, 2015, ICG, has been maintaining strong presence in the area, through regular and continuous surface and aerial surveillance, so as to deny any subsequent attempt by adversaries to enter our maritime zones. Coast Guard ships from Gujarat along with Dornier aircraft from Porbandar and Daman have been maintaining regular surveillance in area off Indo-Pak IMBL. Bigger ships from Mumbai also join the operation regularly for force augmentation. In addition, patrolling close to the coast has also been strengthened by deploying Interceptor Boats, Interceptor Crafts and Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs).

Regulation for public money pooling activities

2131. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to have a separate regulator for all kind of public money pooling activities by non-listed entities and also include all money collection schemes under its ambit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh measures taken by Government to check money pooling frauds by various entities across the country along with major overhaul of regulations governing such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal pending with the Government.

- (b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Cheating by entities/persons is done through several ways including dubious Multi-Level Marketing (MLM) schemes and Collective Investment Schemes (CIS). MLM constitute an offence under the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978 and CIS under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. The power to investigate and prosecute entities/persons carrying out dubious MLM activities, lies with the State Governments. On the other hand, Collective Investment Schemes are regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

According to Section 11AA of the SEBI Act, CIS is any scheme or arrangement, which satisfies the following conditions:

- (i) the contributions, or payments made by the investors, by whatever name called, are pooled and utilized solely for the purposes of the scheme or arrangement;
- (ii) the contributions or payments are made to such scheme or arrangement by the investors with a view to receive profits, income, produce or property, whether movable or immovable, from such scheme or arrangement;
- (iii) the property, contribution or investment forming part of scheme or arrangement, whether identifiable or not, is managed on behalf of the investors;
- (iv) the investors do not have day to day control over the management and operation of the scheme or arrangement.

In addition to the above, the Government has notified the Securities Law (Amendments) Act, 2014 on August 22, 2014, that *inter-alia*, contain the provision of deeming any scheme or arrangement of pooling of funds involving corpus of ₹ 100 crore or more and which is not regulated by another Regulator, as Collective Investment Scheme to be regulated by SEBI.

The Central Government has taken proactive steps to improve co-ordination between various Central Government agencies and State Governments agencies through the State Level Coordination Committee mechanism so as to ensure prompt preventive action is taken against such unregulated money pooling entities.

Several State Government have enacted a special law to protect the interest of depositors in financial establishments. The Central Government has written to remaining State Governments to initiate the process of enactment of such a law. Further, SEBI and RBI have cautioned the Public against schemes offering unrealistic returns.

Volume of loss on account of bank strike

2132. SHRI K.T.S.TULSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the one day strike by the Bank Employees on 12th November, 2014, the workers have climbed down on their demand for wage hike; and
- (b) the total volume of loss incurred on account of delay in clearance of cheques in terms of rupees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The Unions/Associations of employees of PSBs and Indian Banks'