

Making tax evasion a predicate offence

*97 DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to make 'tax evasion' a 'predicate offence';
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to include tax evasion under the list of predicate offences contained in the schedule attached to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Bill, 2015 which has been tabled in Lok Sabha on 20-03-2015 proposes to provide that wilful attempt to evade tax in relation to undisclosed foreign income and asset will be a predicate offence. The Bill *vide* clause 88 provides that in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in the Schedule, in Part C, after entry 3 relating to the offences against property under Chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code, the following entry shall be inserted, namely:-

“(4) willful attempt to evade tax in relation to undisclosed foreign income and asset referred to in section 51 of the Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, 2015”.

The offence of evasion of duty or prohibitions under Section 135 of the Customs Act, 1962 is already a predicate offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. Further, offence of false declaration, false documents, etc., under section 132 of the Customs Act, 1962 is proposed to be brought under PMLA *vide* Finance Bill, 2015.

Long term plans for Muslims

*98. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that by 2050 India will surpass Indonesia and will have the largest Muslim population; and
- (b) if so, the details of the long term plans it has for Muslims?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA) :
(a) No such information is available with the Ministry of Minority Affairs.