

International Standards and expanding India's treaty network by signing new DTAA's and Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) with many jurisdictions to facilitate the exchange of information and to bring transparency; and

- (viii) Proactively engaging with foreign governments for exchange of information under DTAA's/TIEAs/Multilateral Convention.

Appointment of gold appraisers for Gold Monetisation Scheme

81. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to appoint gold appraisers at nationalised banks to carry forward Gold Monetisation Scheme; and

(b) if not, the details of plan of Government to appoint personnel who can check the quality of gold deposited under Gold Monetisation Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has no proposal to appoint gold appraisers at Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to carry forward Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS) and it is upto the PSBs to appoint personnel/agency to check the quality of the gold deposit under GMS.

Erosion in Central Government's holding in PSBs

82. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any erosion in Central Government's holding in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) during last three years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether some PSBs are trading at 0.3-0.5 times their book value instead of 1.3-1.5 times in previous years;

(c) how much these PSBs and Government have lost notionally or in real terms in this way; and

(d) whether Government intends to prevent this erosion, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) During last 3 years, the percentage of Government share holding has slightly declined in respect of 6 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) due to raising of capital by these banks from market. However, Government shareholding has increased in 15 PSBs and remained unchanged for 6 PSBs.

(b) It is fact that 12 PSBs are trading at 0.3-0.5 times their book value.