

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) what additional benefits will people get on conversion of it into a bank;
- (d) details of Shishu, Kishore and Tarun schemes being implemented under MUDRA; and
- (e) status of the above schemes since MUDRA came into being?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Union Cabinet at its Meeting held on 6th January, 2016 has approved the conversion of MUDRA Ltd. into MUDRA (SIOBI) Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of SIOBI, with the following functions:

Refinancing operations, support services with focus on portal management, data analysis and any other activities entrusted by Government of India. The operations of the MUDRA (SIOBI) Bank are expected to enhance the level of service and availability of loans to people.

(d) and (e) The following is the break-up of number of beneficiaries and amount disbursed under three categories of loans under PMMY as on Feb. 26, 2016.

Category	Amount sanctioned (crore)
Shishu (loans up to 50000)	48049.20
Kishore (loans from 50001 to 5 Lakh)	35641.96
Tarun (loans from 5 Lakh to 10 Lakh)	23937.53
TOTAL	107628.69

Action plan to settle tax disputes

1191. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has drawn up an action plan to bring down pending tax disputes drastically; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof together with the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for bringing down pending tax disputes are as under:

Direct Taxes

- (i) The monetary limits for filing appeals have been increased from 4 lakhs to 10 lakhs for Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) and from 10 lakhs to 20 lakhs for High Court *vide* Circular No.21 dated 10.12.2015. For the first time, the limits have been raised with retrospective effect. Upto 31.01.2016, 6,451 appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) and 2,027 appeals before the High Courts stood dismissed as withdrawn/not pressed.
- (ii) Directions were issued on 10.12.2015 for formation of Collegiums of 2 Chief Commissioners to consider withdrawal of suitable cases pending in the High Courts above monetary limit.
- (iii) Section 255(3) of the Act was amended by the Finance Act, 2015, to provide for increase in limit of single member bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) to 15 lakhs.
- (iv) Section 158AA has been introduced by the Finance Bill, 2015 to avoid filing appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on issues pending before the Supreme Court.
- (v) An O.M. was issued on 06.11.2014 which impressed upon the supervisory officers to monitor the work of AOs to ensure that high pitched assessments are not made without proper basis. Further, Commissioners of Income Tax (Appeal) have been directed to call for remand reports on specific points only. These administrative directions ensure that the genesis of litigation, that is the assessment order and the appellate order, are based on proper facts and law.
- (vi) The decision to file appeal against Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) orders before High Courts is taken by a panel of Chief Commissioners as against one Chief Commissioner earlier. This step has been taken to ensure that the case is properly vetted by more than one Senior Officer before deciding on agitating the matter.
- (vii) Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms in form of Dispute Resolution Panels, Advance Pricing Agreements, Authority of Advance Rulings, Income Tax Settlement Commission, etc. are in place to ensure that litigation is minimised and that judicial system is not un-necessarily burdened. The scope of cases for which settlement application can be made has been enlarged. Scope of Authority for Advanced Rulings has been increased so as to enable the resident tax payers to obtain an

advance ruling in respect of their income tax liability above a defined threshold.

- (viii) The Supreme Court has constituted a Special Bench with effect from 09.03.2015 to deal exclusively with tax matters. All Principal Chief Commissioners of Income Tax have been instructed to ensure complete compliance with the requirements of the Court.
- (ix) National Judicial Reference System (NJRS) has been launched. It is a web based facility which also reflects the status of pending appeals, the issues/sections involved, etc. This database is expected to enable the field officers in identification of cases involving similar issues, bunching of such cases and pursuing the same for their early resolution.
- (x) With a view to improve quality of representation before Judicial forums, new guidelines are under consideration for engagement of counsels for the department. The same is in process of inter-ministerial consultation.
- (xi) The Central Technical Committee has issued 7 circulars on settled issues with directions not to file appeals on the issue and to withdraw pending appeals on these issues.
- (xii) Directions have been issued to Commissioners of Income Tax (Appeal) to pass orders within 15 days of last hearing.
- (xiii) The Department monitors the monthly disposal of appeals at the level of Commissioners of Income Tax (Appeal) by setting targets for disposal and monitoring the same by Zonal Members, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- (xiv) Additional 199 posts of Commissioners of Income Tax have been created in the cadre-restructuring to expedite disposal.
- (xv) Monitoring the disposal at other forums like Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)/HC/SC is beyond the purview of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). However, Standing Counsel and Department Representatives are instructed not to take adjournments.

Indirect Taxes

- (i) Withdrawal of appeals filed by the Department below the threshold limit in the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) *i.e.* appellate tribunal and High Courts. Present threshold limit, as prescribed by the Central Board of

Excise and Customs (CBEC) for filing appeals in the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), High Courts and Supreme Court is 10 lakhs, 15 lakhs and 25 lakhs respectively.

- (ii) Withdrawal of appeals in the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) and High Courts following a Supreme Court decision which has been accepted by the Department.
- (iii) Chief Commissioners have been instructed to take up with the Chief Justices of their respective States to set up more benches to deal with taxation matters for quicker disposal.
- (iv) Monetary limit of the cases heard and disposed of by Single Member Benches of the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) has been enhanced from 10 lakhs to 50 lakhs.
- (v) The provision of pre-deposit has been made mandatory for filing of Appeals before Commissioner (Appeals) and Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT). This would result in Appellate Authorities concentrating their time on main Appeals instead of disposal of Stay Applications.
- (vi) Establishment of six additional benches of Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) has been approved by the Government. Out of these, 3 new benches, each at Chandigarh, Allahabad and Hyderabad have already started functioning. Other 3 benches, each at Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai are expected to become functional very soon.
- (vii) Above steps have been taken to reduce appeals and help in de-clogging of indirect tax matters in the courts and other appellate fora, result thereof is expected to show up in near future. However, no time-frame has been prescribed.

Investment in Amaravati

1192. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any details of the funds invested in Amaravati, new capital of Andhra Pradesh by each investor/domestic and international, project-wise;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to ease the business rules and give tax waivers to attract the investments for the construction of new capital of Andhra Pradesh–Amaravati in future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and