

in its latest policy review and the introduction of the marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) should improve transmission and magnify the effects of the current policy rate cut.

Retrieving of black money stashed in foreign banks

†231. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has not been able to bring back even one per cent of the black money stashed by Indians in foreign banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the information received about the amount of black money stashed in foreign banks and how much of it has been brought back so far; and

(d) the names of the holders of black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No authentic estimate of black money of Indians in foreign banks is available with the Government. However, drive against tax evasion is an on-going process. On the basis of information collected, action under direct tax laws to tax unaccounted money belonging to Indians in foreign banks is being taken in appropriate cases.

The Government has taken effective steps to tackle the issue of black money stashed abroad. In this regard, major initiatives taken by the Government include the following:

- (i) A comprehensive new law titled 'The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015' has been enacted which, *inter-alia*, provides for separate taxation of undisclosed income in relation to foreign income and assets. Total 644 declarations were made under the one time compliance window provided in the Act and the amount involved in these 644 declarations was ₹ 4,164 crores, on which tax and penalty paid upto 31st December, 2015 is ₹ 2,428.4 crores.
- (ii) A Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Black Money, under chairmanship and vice-chairmanship of two retired judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court, was constituted by the Government in May 2014. Investigations into cases involving substantial unaccounted income, particularly black money stashed abroad, are being extensively monitored by the SIT and directions issued by the SIT are being carried out. The SIT has already submitted three reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) Investigation into cases involving undisclosed foreign assets/income has been accorded the highest priority and Special Units have been constituted under each Director General of Income Tax (Investigation) to undertake expeditious and focused investigation in undisclosed foreign assets/income cases.
- (iv) India is now a leading force in the efforts to forge a multi-lateral regime for proactive sharing of financial information known as Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) which will greatly assist the global efforts to combat tax evasion. A decision has also been taken to enter into information-sharing arrangements with the USA under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) of USA. The AEOI and FATCA will enable India to get information about financial transactions done by Indian persons in other countries.
- (v) While focusing upon non-intrusive measures, due emphasis has been given on enforcement measures in high impact cases with a view to prosecute the offenders at the earliest possible for credible deterrence against tax evasion;
- (vi) Proactively engaging with foreign Governments, through bilateral, face to face meetings for exchange of information under DTAAs/TIEAs/Multilateral Convention; and
- (vii) Renegotiation of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) with other countries to bring the Article on Exchange of Information to International Standards and expanding India's treaty network by signing new DTAAs and Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) with many jurisdictions to facilitate the exchange of information and to bring transparency.

(d) The information received under the provisions of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs)/Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs)/Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters/SAARC Multilateral Agreement (in short tax treaties) is covered by the confidentiality clause in the said tax treaties and the contents of the information received cannot be disclosed to persons other than those involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the said treaties.

Waiver of educational loans for unemployed students

232. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to wipe out education loans given to the poor and middle class family students who could not get employment: and

(b) if not, what are the steps contemplated to address the stress of youths, through a special financial package?