

Strict laws to curb cheque bouncing cases

2925. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether now-a-days cheque bouncing is major problem being faced by common man;

(b) if so, whether culprits escape very easily due to lengthy legal procedures; and

(c) whether Government is taking steps to make strict laws to provide justice to the victims of cheque bouncing, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government has received representations regarding problem being faced by people due to cases of bouncing of cheques. Government has recently amended the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881 through the Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act, 2015 notified on 29th December, 2015. The amendment facilitated filing of cases only in a court within whose local jurisdiction the bank branch of the payee, where the payee delivers the cheque for payment through his account, is situated, except in cases where the cheque is presented for payment otherwise through an account, in which case the local court of the branch of the drawee bank would have the jurisdiction. The amendment also mandated centralization of cases against the same drawer. This is expected to result in faster disposal of cases.

Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Budget Speech 2017-18 has announced, "As we move faster on the path of digital transactions and cheque payments, we need to ensure that the payees of dishonoured cheques are able to realise the payments. Government is therefore considering the option of amending the Negotiable Instruments Act suitably".

Reduction of subsidy on sugar

2926. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsidy on sugar has been reduced by Government; and

(b) whether this decision has been opposed by the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, if so, the details thereof?