

Scheduled Commercial Banks for setting up greenfield enterprises. State-wise target has not been specified under the Scheme.

Implementation of GST

1824. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that implementation of GST has failed on many fronts;
- (b) if so, whether it indicates that it was implemented in haste, without preparation; and
- (c) whether it would not affect the economy adversely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir. GST was implemented on the 1st of July 2017, and till now, the implementation has been smooth.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) No Sir. On the contrary, this economic reform is expected to have a positive impact on the economic indicators and increase the ease of doing business in India.

Trading in Bitcoins

1825. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that online trading of Bitcoins growing very rapidly in the country during the last one year, if so, Government's observation and response thereto;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Bitcoins could be the root cause behind terror funding, money laundering and hawala transactions in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for controlling unlawful activities through Bitcoins in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) Government doesn't maintain data related to trading of Virtual Currencies/ bit coins.

However taking cognizance of concerns raised at various fora from time to time on increasing use of Virtual Currencies (VCs) and the regulatory challenges around Department of Economic Affairs has constituted a committee with representatives from Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Department of Revenue (CBDT), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog and State Bank of India. The objectives of committee, *inter alia* is to take stock of the present status of Virtual currencies both in India and globally; examine the existing global regulatory and legal structures governing Virtual Currencies; suggest the frame work for regulation of Virtual Currencies if considered including issues relating to consumer protection, taxation, money laundering among others; any other matter related to Virtual Currencies which may be relevant. Based on the deliberations of this Committee, DEA in May, 2017 had also invited comments from members of public on Mygov.in platform. The committee has submitted its report on 25.07.2017 to Hon'ble Finance Minister.

The Reserve, Bank of India has also cautioned from time to time, *vide* their Press Releases dated December 24, 2013 and February 1, 2017, the users, holders and traders of Virtual Currencies about the potential financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks.

Action against shell companies

†1826. SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any drive against shell companies, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of such restrictions, penalties and concerned judicial provisions which have been contemplated by Government under the said drive, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Detection of tax evasion by persons including shell companies and consequent action is a continuous process. Such action under the Direct Taxes law includes searches, surveys, enquiries, assessment of income, levy of taxes, penalties, etc. and filing of prosecution complaints in criminal courts, wherever applicable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.