

Exchange of Data) project which has been developed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) along with WCO (World Customs Organization). This project will enable the Department of Postal and Customs to exchange data electronically in advance and assist in risk management.

Action on information of PNB fraud by PMO

1193. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister Office (PMO) was informed about a diamond Tsar engineered scam in Punjab National Bank (PNB) in 2016 as reported in a section of the media;

(b) if so, what action was initiated; and

(c) if not, when Government become aware of the scam and what steps have been taken to arrest the businessman and recover the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, *vide* Office Memorandum dated 1.3.2018, apprised PMO of action taken regarding the fraudulent issuance of Letters of Undertaking in PNB.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered two cases relating to the matter and 18 persons have been arrested in these cases. On the basis of FIRs registered by CBI, Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has filed two cases under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 and conducted searches at various locations and seized movable properties and attached immovable properties. Further, mutual funds and bank accounts have been frozen. Letter of Request to 13 countries have been issued by the court seeking details of properties, bank accounts of companies, etc. ED has moved the court for obtaining non-bailable warrants against accused persons. Further investigation is in progress.

AP entitlement out of CSS

1194. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh to release funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in the ratio of 90:10 between