

for medical treatment for self and family, housing loan advances, festival advances, miscellaneous advances for functions/ceremonies in the family like marriage, etc.

All confirmed Development Officers are whole time employees of LIC and they are governed by LIC of India (Staff) Regulations 1960 as amended from time to time as well as LIC of India (Revision of Certain Terms and Conditions of Services) Amendment Rules 2016. They are paid salary and other allowances as are applicable to Class II cadre. They are also paid Incentive Bonus as per their business performance during their appraisal year as specified in Growth Oriented Incentive Bonus Scheme.

Wilful defaulters of banks

2139. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Bank Officers Confederation (AIBOC) has requested Government to publish names of the wilful defaulters of all banks;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether AIBOC has also requested to grant permission to write to the Home Ministry to take over the passports of directors of defaulting companies for emigration clearance to prevent their escape; and

(d) if so, by when permission would be granted and by when wilful defaulters' list would be published and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA): (a) to (d) With regard to publishing of names of wilful defaulters of banks, it may be noted that a communication was received from AIBOC raising various issues concerning the banking sector, including a suggestion, *inter alia*, to publicise names of corporate bank defaulters, and the same was referred to the Indian Banks' Association for necessary actions. In this regard, it may also be noted that as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inputs, the list of suit-filed wilful defaulters of ₹ 25 lakh and above are available in public domain on the websites of Credit Information Companies (CICs). Further, as per RBI, the list of non-suit filed wilful defaulters of ₹ 25 lakh and above is confidential in nature and is exempted from disclosure under section 45E of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI has also apprised that a lending institution can consider publication of the photographs of only those borrowers who have been declared as wilful defaulters following the mechanism set out in RBI instructions, for which the lending institutions shall formulate a policy with the approval of their Board of Directors which clearly sets out the criteria based on which the decision to publish the photographs of a person

covered in paragraph above will be taken by them so that the approach is neither discriminatory nor inconsistent.

With regard to request to Home Ministry in respect of defaulting companies to prevent escape, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has apprised that no such specific information is available. However, the Ministry has further apprised that Government has amended the Look-Out Circular (LOC) guidelines, and that an LOC may now also be opened/originated after the approval of an officer not below the rank of Chairman/Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of a Public Sector Bank.

Status in BRICS countries

2140. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is reigning in the second spot among the BRICS countries in terms of competitive economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken/is taking any concrete steps to sustain this momentum to become a leading country among the BRICS countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P): (a) and (b) India ranks 3rd among the BRICS countries according to the Ease of Doing Business Report 2019 published by the World Bank. Russia ranks at 31, China at 46, India at 77, South Africa at 82 and Brazil at 109. among all the countries covered under the Report. Similarly, India ranks 3rd among BRICS countries as per the Global Competiveness Report 2018, published by the World Economic Forum. China ranks at 28, Russia at 43, India at 58, South Africa at 67 and Brazil at 72 among all the countries covered in the Global Competiveness Index 4.0 Rankings as published in the Global Competiveness Report 2018.

(c) and (d) Government has undertaken several measures to sustain the economic growth momentum and to promote investment and business climate. These measures, *inter alia*, include; fillip to manufacturing sector via Make in India programme, measures to improve ease of doing business, reforms in the foreign direct investment policy, introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, major push to infrastructure development via higher allocation to rail and road sector, reduced corporate tax rate of 25 per cent for companies with turnover up to ₹ 250 crore and various labour reform measures.