

**Notices to Indian account holders by Swiss Banks**

†1157. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Swiss Banks have issued notices to their Indian Account Holders to be present there; and

(b) if so, the details of the account holders who have received such notices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) No such information is available with the Government. However, Article 26 of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Switzerland provides for exchange of information between the two countries on request basis. Pursuant to this Article, requests for exchange of information, including banking information, are sent to the Switzerland Competent Authority in specific cases under investigation by Indian tax authorities. Before transmitting the requested information to the Indian Competent Authority, the Swiss authorities are required as per their domestic law to notify, either directly or through the information holder, the persons concerned or any other person entitled to appeal. Accordingly, it is likely that such notices may have been issued to some Indian taxpayers.

**Tax on cash withdrawals**

1158. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intends to levy a tax between three per cent and five per cent on cash withdrawals of ₹ 10 lakh a year, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the steps taken or intended by Government to promote digitisation of financial transactions; and

(c) the details of the number of people who have shifted to digital transactions since November, 2016 till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Various Proposals/Representations/Suggestions relating to the amendments in tax laws are examined at the time of the preparation of the Finance Bill and the outcome of the same is reflected in the Finance Bill tabled before the Parliament.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to promote digital payments are as follows:—

(i) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) is co-ordinating with Ministries/Departments/States for promotion of Digital Payments and enabling digital payment acceptance infrastructure at citizen touch points.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Advisories are issued for the following:—
- To enable online payment systems for promotion of digital payments using UPI, QR code etc.
  - To enable QR code on physical payment receipt counters.
  - Utilities (Electricity/Water/Gas/Telecom/DTH) to be on-board on Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) and printing of BHIM QR code on all utility bills.
- (iii) Digidhan Dashboard (<https://digipay.gov.in>) has been developed to create a platform for reporting, monitoring and analysis of digital payments transactions occurring in the country. It is used for tracking the growth of digital transactions.
- (iv) A campaign was undertaken in 100 smart cities in coordination with 9 Ministries/ Departments; for promotion of digital payments during the period from 1st July, 2018 to 31st October, 2018. Smart Cities are reporting total payment collection vs. digital collection from citizens on the Digidhan Dashboard.
- (v) In order to promote digital payments, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has come out with Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) Reimbursement Scheme up to ₹ 2000/- for a period of two years from 1st January, 2018. As per the scheme, government is reimbursing Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on transactions up to ₹ 2,000/- made through Debit Cards, BHIM-UPI and Aadhaar-enabled payment systems (AePS).
- (vi) In order to give fillip to digital funds movement, RBI *vide* its circular on 'National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems-Waiver of charges' dated 11.06.2019, has decided that with effect from July 1, 2019, processing charges and time varying charges levied on banks by RBI for outward transactions, undertaken using the RTGS system, as also the processing charges levied by RBI for transactions processed in NEFT system would be waived by the Reserve Bank of India. The banks have also been advised by RBI to pass on the benefits to their customers for undertaking transactions using RTGS and NEFT systems.

(c) Details of growth of Digital transactions for all modes from November, 2016 to March, 2019 is placed below:—

	Number of transactions (in crore)	Total amount involved in transactions (in rupees crore)
	1	2
November' 16	91.83	11,227,138.54
December' 16	132.93	12,457,246.25
January' 17	125.60	11,393,702.05
February' 17	111.37	10,798,480.98
March' 17	130.64	17,261,132.04
April' 17	159.74	14,843,153.06
May' 17	156.76	15,144,963.27
June' 17	152.90	15,443,478.97
July' 17	156.57	14,575,915.46
August' 17	158.02	15,114,700.97
September' 17	158.34	16,919,903.46
October' 17	168.79	15,644,160.29
November' 17	174.31	16,506,429.41
December' 17	193.60	16,944,318.67
January' 18	198.36	18,204,042.10
February' 18	190.79	15,215,306.29
March' 18	202.20	21,685,766.24
April' 18	209.72	17,376,498.40
May' 18	219.77	21,408,291.00

	1	2
June' 18	223.37	21,439,453.73
July' 18	231.74	20,631,310.34
August' 18	244.79	20,326,521.49
September' 18	248.06	19,466,713.12
October' 18	270.71	20,248,932.67
November' 18	267.62	18,610,174.13
December' 18	292.12	20,296,898.01
January' 19	303.22	21,769,287.08
February' 19	290.12	20,723,773.17
March' 19	332.34	25,802,322.77

*Source:* RBI and NPCI.

#### **Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

1159. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

DR. K. V.P. RAMACHANDRARAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any proposal for the sanction of Externally Aided Projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of proposals received from the States, accorded approval along with their estimated cost and present status of the Projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details and present status of proposals for the sanction of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) received from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during the last three financial years (April, 2016 –March, 2019) are at Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.