

(b) whether it is also a fact that Reserve Bank of India data suggested that a stronger Dollar led to an increase in donations being given to religious and charitable institutions; and

(c) whether Government has constituted any monitoring mechanism in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The amount and timing of remittances of dollars from abroad depend on many factors, one of which is strengthening of the dollar. The table below shows the average exchange rate of Indian Rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar and the remittances that have flowed into the country since 2013-14:

Financial Year	Indian rupees per US dollar	Inward Remittances (US\$ million)
2013-14	60.50	69638
2014-15	61.14	69819
2015-16	65.47	65592
2016-17	67.07	61296
2017-18	64.45	69129
2018-19 (April-December)	69.74	58312

Source: Reserve Bank of India and Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd.

(b) As per latest available Annual Report 2016-17 and 2017-18 of Ministry of Home Affairs, the foreign contribution of over ₹ 15 thousand crore was received in the year 2016-17, as against over ₹ 20 thousand crore in year 2015-16, under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA, 2010). No reason has been stated for the decline in the foreign contribution in the Report.

(c) The Government and Reserve Bank of India are closely monitoring the emerging external position including exchange rate of the rupee on an on-going basis and are calibrating policies or regulations to support robust macroeconomic outcome.

#### Extradition of economic offenders

339. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Economic offenders who have fled the country illegally;

- (b) the amount of money involved in each case;
- (c) whether Government has initiated extradition proceedings in these cases;
- (d) if so, the status of such measures; and
- (e) whether Government will take steps to legislate more effective laws in this regard as the current laws have proved to be insufficient in tackling such offenders?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) and (b) There are 28 individuals who are accused in criminal cases being investigated by ED and who are either residing abroad or who have left the country before initiation of investigations by ED. Since these cases are at various stages of investigations by ED, it will not be in larger public interest to disclose names of such persons, amount involved and status of investigation as the same may adversely affect these investigations.

(c) and (d) Necessary action has been initiated for bringing these persons back to India. In this regard, Red Corner Notice (RCN) have been issued against 25 persons; Extradition requests have been issued for 14 persons; action under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA) have been initiated against 07 persons and 03 persons accused under PMLA have been brought back to India.

(e) There are adequate legal and administrative measures in place to tackle economic offenders who have either fled from the country or are likely to flee during the course of investigations. Whenever there is apprehension that the accused person may leave the country during the pendency of PMLA investigation, Look Out Circular (LoC) is issued by the Directorate of Enforcement. In case any of the accused person against whom LoC is issued tries to leave the country the Immigration Authority informs the Directorate and such person is apprehended. Further, some of the accused persons may already be residing abroad or may have left India before the commencement of the investigation under PMLA. In such cases action is taken by issuance of RCN and Extradition Request. Action under the newly enacted FEOA, 2018 is also initiated in suitable cases against economic offenders who have left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution or who, being abroad, refuse to return to India to face criminal prosecution and the total amount involved in the economic offence is more than ₹ 100 crore.