

(d) how many exporters presently holding code numbers are those who have made only two or less than two export transactions in foreign exchange during the whole of the previous year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) With a view to facilitating the speedy collection and processing of statistics of exports, the Reserve Bank of India introduced a scheme for allotment of Code Numbers to exporters in their "Notice to Exporters No. 2 of 1966" on September 14, 1966. All exporters were required to obtain the Code Numbers before December, 31, 1966. This came into effect from Jan. 1, 1967.

Every person/firm/company engaged in export/business in India is required to obtain a code number from the Reserve Bank of India. For this purpose the exporter should submit an application in the prescribed form to the nearest office of the Reserve Bank of India. On receipt of the application, the branch of the Reserve Bank of India within whose area of jurisdiction the exporter functions, will allot a code number which needs to be indicated below the exporter's signature on all documents prescribed for declaration of exports to the Customs/Postal authorities.

The scheme has been in force for a little over 11 years now.

(b) As this scheme came into operation only after the end of the Third Five Year Plan, there are no statistics for the year 1956 and 1966. The total number of Exporters holding Code numbers of January 1, 1978 was 74,992.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Benami transactions by black money Operators

1499. SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-currency assets, in particular be-
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namo transactions, are the principal instruments used by the black money operators and sustain and promote a parallel and illegal economy in our system; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not making these transactions illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ZULFIKARULLAH): (a) and (b). It is true that benami transactions are among the various methods used for tax evasion. This has been considered by various Committees, including the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee (Wanchoo Committee). Section 281A of the Income-tax Act, 1961 bars institution of suits in any court for claiming ownership of property which is held benami unless the requisite conditions laid down in this regard are fulfilled.

गुजरात के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण बैंक खोलना

1500. श्री छीतूभाई गमित : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण बैंक खोलने की कोई पुरानी योजना भी यदि हो, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या गुजरात के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में ग्रामीण बैंक खोले जायेंगे यदि हां, तो गुजरात में कहां कहां पर ऐसे बैंक खोले जायेंगे; और

(ग) सूरत जिले के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में ऐसे कितने बैंक खोले जाएंगे और कितने स्थानों पर ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री एच० एम० पटेल) :

(क) से (ग) प्रादेशिक ग्रामीण बैंक अधिनियम, 1976 के उपबन्धों के अनुसार 16 राज्यों के 87 जिलों में जिन के