

(a) whether a money laundering scam running into thousands of crores of rupees through misuse of the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme has been unearthed in the metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the errants declarants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) No Sir. VDIS, 1997 did not envisage the holding of any inquiries either at the time of declarations, or at the stage of issue of certificates by the Commissioners of Income Tax. These declarations will become relevant when credit for the amount declared is introduced in the books of accounts of the declarant, and the consequential assessments are taken up for scrutiny.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Permanent Account Number

643. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doubts surface over efficacy of PAN system" published in 'Hindustan Times' (Delhi) dated February 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the main drawbacks pointed out in the said press report with respect to the PAN system;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps taken if any or are contemplated to remove the said drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The

news item has referred to possible use of permanent account number (PAN) cards and credit cards which are not genuine and had been obtained by unscrupulous persons using incorrect names and addresses to defeat the provisions relating to quoting of PAN or GIR No. The provisions relating to PAN has become operational only from 1st November, last year and is still in the process of setting down. The question of taking rigorous steps on the basis of possibility of misuse in isolated cases, does not arise at this stage.

[Translation]

Loans for Construction of Houses by LIC

644. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) the total amount received from the various policy holders;

(c) the names of the institutions provided loans by LIC for construction of houses for individuals;

(d) the amount provided for the purpose; and

(e) the amount of loan given to each State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The total assets of the Life Insurance Corporation as on 31.03.1998 amounts to Rs. 10995.437 crores.

(b) The total amount received by way of premium on policies from various policy holders as on 31.03.1998 is Rs. 19356.759 crores.

(c) The following are the names of the agencies to which LIC grants loan for Housing Sector:

(i) State Governments for financing social housing schemes (General & Rural) as per allocation made by the Planning Commission.

(ii) State level Co-operative Housing federations for on-lending to their member Co-operative Housing Societies for construction/purchase of houses by individual members of the Co-operative Societies.