

*[Translation]***Credit Rating Information Service of India**

679. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited has given a negative rating in respect of the bonds of various corporations set up by the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the Credit Rating Information Services of India (CRISIL), bonds issued by Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (MKVDC), Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation were downgraded from "AA(so)" to "A+(so)" in January, 1999.

(c) and (d) According to CRISIL the downgrading of rating is mainly based on the fiscal situation of the State Government, their debt servicing expenditure and the reliance on market borrowings for financing Plan outlay. Repayment obligations on the bonds are supported by the Government of Maharashtra through a tripartite agreement between these corporations, Government of Maharashtra and Trustees to the issues.

*[English]***PAN**

680. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have liberalised/propose to make any modifications relating to quoting of

Permanent Account Number (PAN) recently for financial transactions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said modifications are likely to be made effective?

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 (c) Yes, Sir. A number of modifications have been made in the provisions relating to quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) or GIR Number by Notification S.O.No. 33(E) dated 27th January, 1999. The significant changes are as follows.

- (i) Originally, there was no requirement to file declaration in Form No. 60 or 61 if the payment for the specified transactions was made by way of a crossed cheque drawn on a bank or by a crossed bank draft. According to the modified provisions, the exemption from filing the declarations shall be in respect of payment by way of a crossed cheque or through credit card issued by any bank.
- (ii) The non-residents shall not be required to furnish copies of their passports while making payment for the specified transactions.
- (iii) The provisions of PAN shall not be applicable for Central Government, State Government and Consular offices where they are payers.
- (iv) The provisions regarding reporting information to the concerned Director of Income-tax (Investigation) have been liberalised. Details in respect of transactions wherein PAN/GIR No. is quoted need not be reported. Only copies of declaration filed in Form No. 60 and Form No. 61 in respect of the specified transactions need to be sent. In respect of opening of bank accounts, the requirement of reporting has been done away with. These declarations shall be forwarded only once in every six months within a period of one month from the 30th of September and the 31st of March.
- (v) The persons receiving documents relating to specified transactions have to ensure PAN or GIR No. has been duly and correctly quoted.