

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:743  
ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010  
ECONOMIC OFFENCES  
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether crimes relating to economic offences are constantly increasing in the country; and
- (b) the steps taken or proposed by the Government to check such offences?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) The term Economic Offence is neither clearly defined nor is its categorization uniformly accepted in order to draw accurate conclusions. However, from the data of last two years regarding Customs duty evasion and Customs Seizure cases given in the Annexure, no specific trend is discernible.

(b) The Government has strengthened the intelligence machinery and new tools like data analysis, Computer Forensic analysis, Intelligence Support System (ISS), bilateral agreement between Customs Administrations are used to detect and investigate Customs duty cases. The Income Tax Department too has taken several punitive and deterrent steps to unearth unaccounted money and curb tax evasion. A Tax Information Network (TIN) has also been set up as a depository of important tax related information. The Income Tax Department has also set up integrated Taxpayer Data Management System (ITDMS) to electronically collate information collected from various sources i.e. Tax Deduction at Source, Electronic Filing of .. Return, Annual Information Returns, Central Information Branches etc. The Directorate of Enforcement is enforcing FEMA 1999 dealing with contraventions relating to foreign exchange and is also enforcing PMLA, 2002 which envisages punishment for the offence of money laundering. Appropriate action is taken by the Directorate of Enforcement whenever any contraventions are noticed.