GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2389 ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012 BLUEPRINT TO DEAL WITH CORRUPTION Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of blueprint prepared by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to deal with the problem of corruption;
- (b) the strategy formulated by the Government to check the flow of black money and benami property;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban benami transactions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a): In order to promote good governance, the Central Vigilance Commission has prepared a draft "National Anti-Corruption Strategy" and placed it on the website of the Commission. The Commission has also sought comments/suggestions from the public/stakeholders.

The proposed Strategy aims at systematic and conscious reshaping of the country's national integrity system. The draft Strategy recommends a set of action to be taken by the Government and a set of actions by the political entities, judiciary, media, citizens, private sector and civil society organizations.

(b) to (d): Drive against black money/tax evasion is a continuous and ongoing process. The Income Tax Department takes several punitive and deterrent steps to unearth unaccounted money and curb tax evasion. These include scrutiny of tax returns; surveys, search and seizure actions; imposition of penalty; and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Information technology is used in a systematic way for collection and collation of information to take anti-evasion action against tax evaders.

Benami transactions already stand prohibited under section 3 of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 (45 of 1988) to the effect that no person shall enter into any benami transaction. The rules under that Act could not, however, be formulated due to inherent infirmities in the Act. Therefore, a comprehensive legislation in place of the existing Act has been introduced in Parliament on 18.8.2011 in the form of Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill, 2011 in order to prohibit holding property in benami, restrict right to recover or transfer property held benami and to provide a mechanism and procedure for confiscation of property held benami. The Bill is currently being examined by the Standing Committee on Finance.