

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2277
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
RECOMMENDATIONS ON BLACK MONEY
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has made any recommendation for enacting stringent laws to confiscate Benami assets to check investment of money earned by illegal sources;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER: (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b): Recommendations had been received from a number of agencies such as Law Commission, Central Vigilance Commission etc. relating to laws on benami transactions. Thereafter the Government introduced the Benami Transaction Prohibition Bill, 2011, on 18.08.2011. The Bill has lapsed with the dissolution of the XV Lok Sabha in May 2014.

(c) The drive against tax evasion is an on-going process. Appropriate action under direct tax laws including levy of penalty and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases is taken whenever any instance of tax evasion is detected. While focusing upon non-intrusive measures to detect the unreported income/assets, various initiatives have been taken to create effective deterrence against tax evasion. These include focussed searches and surveys, sustained investigations and timely launching of prosecutions in appropriate cases. Various measures have also been taken to further improve, strengthen and streamline the information gathering and enforcement mechanism of the Income Tax Department.