

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 20TH JULY, 2018
ASHADHA 29, 1940 (SAKA)**

DEPOSITS IN FOREIGN BANKS ACCOUNTS

591: PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made of the accounts of Indians in abroad and if so, the details thereof;*
- (b) whether there is an increase in the deposits of Indians in foreign banks during the last four years; and*
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to bring the illegal accounts of Indians abroad to the legally accepted system?*

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)**

(a) & (b): No such information is available with the Government.

(c): The steps taken by the Government to bring the accounts of Indians abroad to the legally accepted system include the following:

- (i) India has been a leading force in the efforts to forge a multi-lateral regime for proactive sharing of financial information known as Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) which will greatly assist the global efforts to combat tax evasion. The AEOI based on Common Reporting Standard (CRS) has commenced from 2017 enabling India to receive financial account information of Indian residents in other countries. India has also entered into information sharing agreement with the USA under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) of USA. The exchanges under FATCA have taken place for the financial years 2014, 2015 and 2016.
- (ii) India has been proactively engaging with foreign governments, for exchange of information under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs)/Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs)/Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters/South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation(SAARC) Multilateral Agreement.
- (iii) Constitution of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Black Money in May 2014 under the Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship of two former Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Investigation into cases involving substantial black money/undisclosed income, particularly black money stashed abroad, is being extensively and intensively monitored by the SIT.
- (iv) The Government enacted a comprehensive and a more stringent new law, namely, the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 that has come into force w.e.f. 01.07.2015. Apart from prescribing more stringent penal consequences, this law has included the offence of willful attempt to evade tax etc. in relation to undisclosed foreign income/assets as a Scheduled Offence under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
