GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1822
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2021

Agrahayana 23, 1943 (SAKA)

TAX EVASION IN PANAMA PAPERS AND PARADISE PAPERS

1822. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: `

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that undisclosed funds of Rs. 20,352 crore have been detected in the investigations carried out in the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers;

(b) if so, how much of that money has been brought back to the country;

(c) how many people have been prosecuted for tax evasion of the said amount and the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is aware of the total undisclosed funds associated with the recent Pandora Papers investigation brought to light in media; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to prosecute the tax evaders?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI. PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a), (b) & (c) As on 01.10.2021, total undisclosed credits amounting to Rs. 20353 crores have been detected with respect to 930 India linked entities in the Panama and Paradise Paper Leaks. Income Tax Department takes appropriate actions in case of persons, who are found to be involved in violation of the provisions of various Acts administered by the Income Tax Department like the Income Tax Act, 1961, and Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act,2015 etc. Such actions under direct tax law include searches & seizure, surveys, enquiries, assessment and reassessment of income, levy of taxes along with interest, levy of penalties, filing of prosecution complaints in criminal courts etc., wherever applicable. In 52 (Fifty-two) cases of Panama and Paradise Paper Leaks, Criminal prosecution complaints have been filed under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. Further, in 130 cases proceedings under Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of tax Act, 2015 have been initiated. Taxes collected so far amount to Rs. 153.88 crores in the Panama and Paradise Paper Leaks.

(d) & (e) Some Indian names have been released in the media which are allegedly linked to the Pandora Papers Leak. Government of India has taken cognisance of the same and for the purpose of coordinated and speedy investigation brought the Pandora Papers Leak under the umbrella of Multi Agency group (MAG), which has been constituted under the convenorship of Chairman CBDT, with Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Financial Intelligence Unit India (FIU-IND) and Foreign Tax &Tax Research division of CBDT as its members agencies.

*****