GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 683
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2022

LEGISLATION TO CURB EVASION OF TAXES USING OFF-SHORE ACCOUNTS

683. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning any legal action against the recently revealed names of tax-evaders through off-shore accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is planning any new legislation to curb the rising trend of evading taxes by using off-shore accounts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Some Indian names have been released in the media recently, allegedly linked to the Pandora Papers Leak. For the purpose of coordinated and speedy investigation, a Multi Agency group (MAG) 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.

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 laws 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.

(c) & (d): Parliament has already enacted The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income & Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 applicable with effect from 1st of July, 2015. It comprehensively deals with all matter connected with black money, being undisclosed foreign income and assets, the procedure for dealing with such income and assets, and to provide for imposition of tax on any undisclosed foreign income and asset held outside India, etc.

*****