

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2003
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
FILING OF INCOME TAX RETURN
KRISHNA BOSE;RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether income tax payers fail to file income tax return due to the complex process of filing income tax return and the non-cooperation of the officials in income tax offices;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have simplified the procedure of the filing of income tax return to enable the income tax payers in the country to file their return conveniently and fairly; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N.RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): No Sir. Income-tax Act, 1961 has always provided for simplified procedures for filing income tax return and full cooperation of the officials in the Income tax Offices is made available. Filing of return is facilitated by an ongoing process of simplification of tax laws and procedures. Such simplification has resulted in two fold increase in the number of taxpayers in the last five years.

(c): Several measures have been taken to enable the income-tax payers to file their returns conveniently and fairly. Some of these measures include:-

(i) introduction of simplified forms of returns such as the one page form (known as SARAL) for non-corporate tax payers;

(ii) providing that acknowledgement of a return filed may be taken as acceptance of the income declared, except in a very small percentage of cases taken up for verification on the basis of specific information.

(iii) a Scheme called Bulk Filing of Returns by Salaried Employees, 2002 has been introduced from 1st July, 2002 which enables salaried taxpayers to fulfill their tax obligations and receive refunds, if any, within a very short period without any interface with the Income-tax Department.

(iv) under the `Sahayata (Helpline Income-tax)` scheme introduced from 1st August, 2000, a special cell designated as `Helpline Income-tax` was formed to function as the focal point for bringing to the Department`s notice urgent and serious problems of individual and corporate tax payers. This cell is working under the supervision of an officer of the level of Commissioner of Income-tax.

(v) under the `Suidha` scheme introduced from 1st August, 2000, computerised branches of all the nationalised banks in the towns and cities covered by One-by-Six Scheme, have been authorised to receive direct tax payments in addition to the existing authorised branches of different banks.

(vi) several additional receipt counters have been opened at different Income-tax offices to enable smooth filing of income-tax returns and to avoid any inconvenience and delay to the taxpayers.