

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:714
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
PAN CARDS FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of people who have been issued PAN (permanent Account Number) card out of total applications received by the Income Tax Department till date;
- (b) whether the Government are deliberating over handing over the work of preparation of PAN cards to private companies;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the steps taken to protect the interest of tax-payers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

- (a) As on 31.1.2003

STATEMENT

Total applications	2,81,48,33
Valid applications	2,69,02,958
PAN allotted	2,65,94,768
% of PAN allotted over	98.85
PAN Cards issued	2,42,60,007
% of PAN Cards	91.22

(b) and (c) The proposal to outsource the allotment of PAN and issue of PAN cards is underconsideration of the Government. This is being done for providing better taxpayers` service and to enable the income Tax Department to focus on its core functions such as assessment, investigation and revenue collection.

- (d) Necessary safeguards to protect the interest of taxpayers` are being taken.