

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1636

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003

INVESTIGATIVE UNIT OF INCOME TAX

AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH;M.V.V.S MURTHI;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RAMESH CHENNITHALA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to reduce the staff strength in investigative units of the Income-Tax Department;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the reduction in strength would adversely affected the time taken in processing income tax evasion cases; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK):

- (a) to (c) Government is considering to reduce the manpower at different levels presently deployed for search & seizure activities of the Income Tax Department; Extent of such downsizing is being worked out. The manpower so released will be utilized for other productive activities.
- (d) and (e) Officers of the Investigation Wing of the Income Tax Department have been directed to mainly carry out searches in cases involving substantial tax evasion. Cases involving lower amounts of tax evasion are dealt with by way of surveys, enquiry, scrutiny of returns of income. The process of matching of information to be collected through Annual Information Return is also likely to become an important tool to curb tax evasion.