

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6864
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
MISUSE OF INFORMATION FURNISHED BY TAX PAYERS
Bhoi Shri Sanjay

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether personal information furnished by tax payers are passed on to various companies/entities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have come across various complaints of the information being misused by unauthorised persons/agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to prevent such misuse?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

- (a) The department does not pass personal information furnished by the taxpayers to any company or entity.
- (b) to (e) In view of (a) above, no details does arise. However, it was reported by certain quarters that phishing e-mails were received by some people, asking credit card details for issue of refund of excess Income Tax. Accordingly, an advisory was issued in the print media and on National Website of the Income tax Department to caution tax payers against such e-mails. The department has clarified that it does not send e-mails regarding refunds. General public has therefore, been cautioned not to respond to such mails and if they do so, it would be at their risk and responsibilities. The Department of Information Technology, Govt. of India has been asked to take appropriate action in all such cases.