

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:291
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
CORRUPTION IN IT REFUNDS
Rama Devi Smt.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note of alleged corruption in the Income Tax Department for the settlement of refund claims;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) The corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) The extent to which success achieved so far in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) Instances of alleged corruption for settlement of refund claims and complaints come to notice from time to time. Whenever any such instance or complaints comes to notice, the same is verified and if it is found to be correct, the concerned officers/officials have to face penal consequences depending on the facts and circumstances of the case.
- (c) The process of issue of refunds has been streamlined in the course of computerization and encouraging e-filing of returns for speedy processing and issue of refunds through refund banker scheme. A web based status tracking facility for refunds has also been launched. The grievance redressal mechanism has been strengthened for ensuring prompt disposal of all such complaints.
- (d) Significant success has been achieved. An e-filed return claiming refund is now on an average processed within three to four months of its filing.