

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4833
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2009
PENDENCY OF INCOME TAX REFUND CASES
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of income tax refund cases relating to each of the three years from 2006 to 2009, State/Chief Commissionerate-wise including Gujarat;
- (b) the number of such cases which pertain to senior citizens;
- (c) the highest refund made in each of these years;
- (d) whether the clearance of refund cases is done in accordance with the guidelines issued by Government in the matter; and
- (e) if not, whether the officers/staff responsible for delay are proposed to be identified with a view to taking departmental action?

Answer

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

(a) Processing of returns and issuance of refund (if due) is a continuous process in the Income Tax Department. According to the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Income Tax Returns are filed with reference to particular Assessment Year rather than calendar year. Accordingly, information sought is not at all available/separable in the desired manner. However, as on 01-04-2009 the total number of returns claiming refund pending for processing were 38.17 lakhs, which included 3.75 lakhs returns of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (Cadre Controlling Authority), Ahmedabad of Gujarat Region.

(b) The returns of senior citizens are not separately kept by the department. In the absence of such classification, no such data is maintained / available.

(c) The highest amount of refund made is:

Financial Amount (In Rs Crores)
Year

2006-2007 1922
2007-2008 1308
2008-2009 1983

(d) & (e) The issue of refunds is done in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The statutory time limit to process the returns of income is with reference to their receipt in the Financial Year. Accordingly the returns received in Financial Year 2008-09, can be processed upto 31st March, 2010.