

measure was justified in the context of immediate need to widen the tax base and to enforce people having taxable income to file their return of income. Under this scheme the return to be filed is not the usual return of income but an

early, simplified form of return seeking minimum details obviating any need for employing extra man-power and resources. Such simple return under the new scheme does not require any detailed scrutiny.

Statement

Increase in Returns Filed

City	No. of Assessees as on 1-4-97	No. of Assessees as on 28-2-98	Growth	%age
Delhi	646798	824268	177470	27.44
Bangalore	561804	646126	84322	15.01
Mumbai	1149673	1420253	270580	23.54
Hyderabad	161444	221088	59644	36.94
Jaipur	92374	116374	24000	25.98
Ahmedabad	291567	361577	70010	24.01
Pune	250486	286281	35795	14.29
Kanpur	334095	381022	46927	14.05
Chandigarh	734620	944732	210112	28.60
Gur & Far	56550	77989	21439	37.91
Chennai	241274	296692	55218	22.87
Ghaziabad	30742	37188	6446	20.97
Ludhiana	80603	116464	35861	44.49
Calcutta	1341179	1438244	97065	7.24
TOTAL	5973409	7168298	1194889	20.00

Shortfall in Revenue Collections

659. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that there has been huge shortfall in revenue from income-tax and corporate tax in 1997-98;

(b) if so, what was the estimated revenue collection from income-tax and corporate tax and what has been the actual collections; and

(c) the reasons for the shortfall in the revenue collection and how does Government propose to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARATHANAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The table given below shows the increase/decrease over Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates for the Financial Year 1997-98:—

Taxes	Budget Estimates	Revised Estimates	Actual Collections
	(Rs. in crores)		
Corporate Tax	21860	21360	19835
Income-tax	21700	18700	17150
TOTAL	43560	40060	36985

Increase/Decrease

Over B.E.	Over R.E.
(-) 2025	(-) 1525
(-) 4550	(-) 1550
(-) 6575	(-) 3075

(c) The main reasons for shortfall in collection during the financial year 1997-98, are as under:—

- (i) There has been a general recession in the Industry during F.Y. 1997-98. Manufacturing sector has specially suffered a set back affecting the collection of taxes.
- (ii) General Election during the year.
- (iii) Lower rates of taxes may also be a factor to some extent for shortfall.
- (iv) VDIS collections during financial year 1997-98 are Rs. 9474.13 Crores. Taking this also into account, Budget Estimates are even exceeded. VDIS collections have affected the liquidity in the market having adverse implications on regular collections.
- (v) The targets for collections for the financial year 1998-99 have been fixed for each Chief Commissioner Region. The CCs/IT have been requested to personally monitor the top hundred cases of corporate and non-corporate assesseees in his region. The dossier reports of top hundred defaulters will also be undertaken at the level of each CC/IT so that the efforts for cash collections are sustained on a continuous basis. The Board will also be monitoring the collection on top priority basis.

Issue of Cheque Book Without Requisition Slip

660. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of India, Parliament Street, New Delhi had issued a cheque book without the requisition slip;

(b) whether cheques were passed for payment by the branch officials which were bearing forged signatures on the cheques;

(c) if so, has the matter been investigated and if so, what action has been taken against the branch officials for issuing cheque books without requisition slip and authorising the payment on fake signature; and

(d) whether the cases of this type are on the increase and taking place in many public and private sector banks without in action being taken against the officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Against the requisition slip sent by St. John Ambulance Brigade for issue of a cheque book containing 25 leaves, the Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch issued two cheque books containing 10 leaves each and handed them over to the authorised representative whose signature was attested by the competent authority. This was done as cheque books with 25 leaves were out of stock at that time. However, the authorised collector reportedly gave only one cheque book to the account holder.

(b) According to Bank of India the cheques were passed for payment by the branch officials since the signature appearing on the cheques apparently tallied with the specimen signature on branch record. The customer was getting statement of account on regular basis. Yet no complaint about the alleged forgery was filed till 31.5.97 whereas 9 withdrawals amounting to Rs. 2.85 lakhs were made from the S/B Account during the period