

(d) Yes, Sir, the issuance of refunds is in accordance with the guidelines. It has always been the endeavour of the department to issue refunds to the tax payers at the earliest. Instructions are issued from time to time to expedite the processing and issuance of the refunds. However, in some cases, there is delay in processing of returns due to manpower constraints, technical reasons like problems in software application etc. Delay in issue of refunds is at times attributable to assessee on account of deficiencies in bank account details, wrong address and lack of PAN details.

The statutory time limit to process returns and issue refunds for returns received in the financial year 2008-09 is 31/03/2010. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has instructed the field formations in 2008 to process the return within six months of the filing of the return and issue the refund, wherever due. Owing to software compatibility, there has been a slowdown in the processing of returns. The situation is expected to improve through stabilisation of the system and gradual adoption of centralized computer based processing of returns.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Low fare domestic airline

¶*349. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to start a chartered domestic airline;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of aircrafts with Government at present;
- (d) whether Government is contemplating to purchase more aircrafts for starting low fare domestic airline; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The total number of aircraft as on 21 July, 2009 with Air India (including owned and leased) are 157.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Subsidy provided to various departments

*350. SHRI RAM CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount given as subsidy to various departments in a year, Department-wise, during the last three years;

¶Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the subsidy given by the Central Government is reaching the targeted people; and

(c) what is the share of the Central Government in the Rs.2 per Kg. subsidized rice scheme of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Subsidies are not given to Central Government Ministries/Departments. However, subsidies under various schemes like food subsidy, fertilizer subsidy, petroleum subsidy, interest subsidy, subsidy on maintenance of buffer stock of sugar, import of edible oils/pulses, etc. are provided in the demands for grants of specific Ministries/Departments concerned. The details of provisions made towards different schemes of subsidies during the last three years are as follows:

		(Rs. Crore)		
Sl.No.	Details	2006-07 Actuals	2007-08 Actuals	2008-09 (RE)
1.	Food Subsidy	24014	31328	43627
2.	Indigenous (urea) fertilizer	12650	12950	16517
3.	Imported (urea) fertilizer	3274	6606	10981
4.	Sale of decontrolled fertilizer	10298	12934	48351
5.	Petroleum Subsidy	2699	2820	2877
6.	Interest Subsidy	2809	2311	4063
7.	Other Subsidies	1381	1977	2827
Total Subsidies		57125	70926	129243

(b) Under all the schemes of subsidies provided by Central Government, efforts are always made towards reaching the benefits to the targeted category of beneficiaries.

(c) At present, the Central Issue Price (CIP) of Rice is Rs. 8.30/kg for APL category; Rs.5.65/kg for BPL category and Rs. 3.00/kg for the AAY category under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The difference between these prices and the economic cost is the subsidy provided by Central Government. The difference between the Central Issue Price under Targeted Public Distribution System for various categories of beneficiaries and the selling price of rice by a State Government at a lower price would be the additional subsidy on rice provided by the concerned State Government including Orissa.

Selling of aircrafts by IA and AI

□*351. SHRI KIRSHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the aircrafts of Indian Airlines/Air India have been sold;

□Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.