

(c) whether there are several instances of incorrect assessment, incorrect exemption and under-valuation in the process of income-tax assessment; and

(d) whether these have been done bonafidely or malafidely or by both means?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No Sir, the income-tax return forms are assessment year specific and are, therefore, required to be notified separately for each assessment year. The length of the income tax return forms are dependent upon number of sources from which income is derived by an assessee. The length varies from 2 pages in the case of ITR-I meant for individuals to 26 pages in the case of ITR-6 meant for companies. Since these forms do not require filing of any supporting documents, the length of various Forms is reasonable.

The forms have a modular structure and have been made user friendly by providing detailed instructions for filling up. In addition, the taxpayer can access any Help Centre of the Income Tax Department for assistance.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, wherever an instance of incorrect assessment, incorrect exemption or under valuation in the process of income tax assessment is noticed, appropriate remedial action under the provisions of the Income tax Act is taken. Further, where such an action is found to be malafide, proceedings are also initiated against the officer.

Impact of global economic meltdown

1821. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of global economic meltdown and recession in India and the sectors getting badly affected;

(b) the account of the total job-losses in India in each of these sectors;

(c) the policy of Government in facing this situation and category-wise achievements made so far; and

(d) the fields where the situation still appears erosive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There has been a moderation in the growth of the domestic economy due to the impact of the global meltdown and recession. As per the Revised Estimates for 2008-09, released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost is estimated at 6.7 percent in 2008-09. The lower growth in GDP in 2008-09 was spread across all sectors except Mining and quarrying, Community, social and personal services.

(b) to (d) While no comprehensive employment data giving definite estimate is available for the recent period, some sample surveys have indicated employment losses in the wake of global economic slowdown. In a sample survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 2581 units in 20 centres across 11 States/UTs relating to important sectors like mining, textiles, metals, gems

and jewellery automobile, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that about half a million workers have lost their jobs during the quarter October-December, 2008. The major impact of the slowdown was observed in the export oriented units. The decline in employment observed in gems and jewellery, transport and automobiles was 8.58 percent, 4.03 percent and 2.42 percent respectively. In a similar survey conducted by Labour Bureau covering 3192 units in 21 centres across 11 states/UTs relating to sectors like textiles and apparel, handloom/powerloom, leather, metals, gems and jewellery, automobiles, transport and IT/BPO, it was observed that the employment in selected sectors has increased by a quarter million during the January – March 2009 period. The sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems and jewellery, textiles, IT-BPO, handloom/powerloom and automobiles. However, decline in employment during January-March 2009, has been observed in leather, metals and transport. The Department of Commerce has separately conducted some surveys which indicate job losses as under :

S. No.	Period of Survey	Job losses (Direct and indirect) in persons
1.	August 2008-October 2008	65,507
2.	August 2008-16-01-09	1,09,513
3.	August 2008-9-02-09	1,17,602
4.	August 2008-28-02-09	1,19,159

The Government has provided three fiscal stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increased expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The Government has also taken measures like the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana and skill upgradation training programmes, to mitigate the adverse impact of economic slowdown on employment. The Government is constantly monitoring and evaluating the economic situation for taking policy measures to restore the growth dynamics of the economy.

Software Technology Parks

1822. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export-oriented firms set up in Government-run software Technology Parks, are enjoying a tax-free status;

(b) if so, whether this tax-free status to such firms is adversely affecting the commercial viability of private sector industry;

(c) whether Government is thinking of mitigating the effect of global recession in this prime market of information technology; and