

Refund of Income Tax

*343. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of income tax refund cases relating to Assessment Year 2008-09 and the preceding two years, pending in Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh, year-wise and area-wise;

(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 according to the guidelines issued by Government in the matter; and

(e) if not, whether the officers/staff responsible for delay are proposed to be identified and departmental action will be taken against them for delinquent behaviour?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The number of income tax refund cases relating to Assessment Year 2008-09 and the preceding two years pending in Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh, year-wise and area-wise are as under:-

A.Y./Area	Punjab	Haryana	U.T. of Chandigarh
2008-09	191243	145015	20042
2007-08	6613	1630	49
2006-07	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL :	1,97,856	1,46,645	20,091

(b) The data in respect of number of such cases which pertain to senior citizens is not maintained as the prescribed returns are not so classified. However, after verification, the number of such cases out of the above pending refunds is as under:-

A.Y./Area	Punjab	Haryana	U.T. of Chandigarh
2008-09	2509	1562	459
2007-08	Nil	Nil	Nil
2006-07	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL :	2509	1562	459

(c) The highest refund made in, each of these years is given below

(Figures in Rs. Crores)

Financial Year	Highest amount of refund issued
2008-09	45.06
2007-08	84
2006-07	12.77

(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's 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.