

With the implementation of VAT, the States are of the view that the taxation of the 3 AED items should also be integrated with VAT. However, no firm decision has as yet been taken on various aspects connected with levy of VAT on AED items. As and when the same is done, all relevant issues would be given due consideration. There is no proposal for compensating the States in this regard since it is not expected that the States would incur any loss as a result of levy of VAT on AED items.

Unearthing of concealed income

759. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of crores of rupees of concealed income has been unearthed, as a result of raids by the Enforcement Directorate this year; and

(b) if so, the details of such money unearthed during the current year and last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Details of concealed income which has been unearthed as a result of raids by Enforcement Directorate this year and in the last three years, State-wise, are as under:

Year	Maharashtra (Rs. Lakh)	West Bengal (Rs. Lakh)	Others
2006	Nil	82.14	Nil
2005	33.30	7.87	Nil
2004	Nil	Nil	Nil
2003	Nil	Nil	Nil

Vacancies in tax departments

760. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are massive vacancies in the tax departments because of Government's decision to fill one third of vacancies;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill up the posts so as to raise the revenue; and

(c) if not, the number of posts vacant in tax departments under his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) is concerned, for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 the total number of vacancies was 4201, out of which Screening Committee allowed to fill up 1401 posts by abolishing 2800 posts. These posts have since been filled up. For the years 2002-03 to 2005-06, the total number of vacancies in CBEC were 9545, out of which Screening Committee allowed to fill up 2579 posts by abolishing 6966 posts. Out of these 2579 posts, action has already been completed in respect of 906 posts and action has been initiated to fill up the remaining posts.

In so far as Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is concerned, there were 9138 direct recruitment vacancies in Groups A, C & D during the recruitment years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Government has allowed filling up of 3300 posts in the Income Tax Department and remaining 5838 vacant posts are slated for abolition. Surplus Cell of Department of Personnel and Training has nominated 275 employees for redeployment in Group C & D posts. The remaining posts are being filled up through permissible channels.

Lending by banks in Vidharbha region

761. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Banks are now sensing a great lending opportunity in the rural and agriculture sector, following the Centres decision to announce a Rs. 4,300 crore package for the Farmers of the Vidharbha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Government of India has