

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry for exemption of Service Tax on Sheep Insurance Scheme from validity period of 31 December, 2009 to 31 December, 2012 for the benefit of poor sheep rearers of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not acceding to the request so far; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):

(a) and (b) Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had requested for extension of exemption from levy of service tax on Sheep Insurance Scheme expiring on 31.12.2009 for a further period of three years upto 31.12.2012 vide letter dated 26th October, 2009.

(c) The request was not acceded since it did not qualify as per the policy criteria of Ministry of Finance in regard to extending exemption from service tax to such schemes. As a general policy, end use based service tax exemptions are not considered favourably, since they introduce distortions in the tax structure. Moreover, with the advent of Goods and Service Tax (GST), exemptions have to be kept minimal to ensure that the benefits of GST like zero cascading effect and seamless flow of input tax credit, are fully realized.

(d) The decision in this regard has already been communicated vide letter no. D.O.F. No. 354/261/2009-TRU dated 09.01.2010.

Employees strength in offices of Accountant General in Kerala

1615. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sanctioned strength of employees in various offices of the Accountant General (A&E) and Accountant General (Audit) in Kerala, Post-wise and cadre-wise;

(b) the presents staff strength and the number of vacancies in each office; and

(c) by when these vacancies will be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAOM NARAIN MEENA):

(a) and (b) As per the information provided by C&AG's office, the statements showing the

sanctioned strength and staff in position against different categories of posts in the Office of Accountant General(A&E) and Accountant General (Audit) in Kerala are given in statement-I and II respectively (See below).

(c) The recruitment to the vacant positions is an ongoing process. Action has already been initiated to fill up the vacant posts of Auditors, Accountants, Data Entry Operators and Junior Translators for various field offices including Kerala Offices.

Statement-I

*Sanctioned Strength and Person in position of vacancies in O/o AG
(A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram as on 01-07-2011*

Sl. No.	Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Person in Position	Held in abeyance	Vacancy	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Sr. A.O	49	26	0	23	
2	AO	13	34	0	-21	
D	AAO	461	459	0	2	Out of total 461 posts, 233 post are being operated against the temporary creation of posts by keeping equal number of posts held in abeyance in various cadres i.e 137- Sr. Acctt, 63- Acctt., 5- PA, 28- Clerk.
4	Supervisor	9	9	0	0	-
5	Sr. Accountant	737	641	4	92	4 posts kept held in abeyance

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	Accountant	135	70	0	65	
7	Clerk	199	36	7	156	7 posts kept held in abeyance
8	PS/Steno	19	13	2	4	2 posts kept held in abeyance
9	SGRK	5	5	0	0	
10	Hindi Officer	1	1	0	0	
11	Sr. Translator	1	1	0	0	
12	Jr. Translator	4	3	0	1	
13	Welfare Assistant	1	1	0	0	
141	Sr. Gest. Operator	2	1	0	1	
15	Staff Car Driver	1	0	0	1	
16	MTS	154	70	0	84	
37	EDP Posts	144	5	0	139	
18	Canteen Staff	37	12	0	25	
Total		1972	1387	13	572	

Statement-II

Sanctioned Strength and Person in Position and vacancies
position as on 01-07-2011

O/o the PAG/C&CAJ & AG (WF&RA), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Sl. No.	Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Person in Position	Held in abeyance	Vacancy	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Sr. A.O	106	77	1	28	1 posts kept held in abeyance to operate Welfare Officer post

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	AO	34	62	0	28	-
3	AAO	408	313	6	89	6 posts kept held in abeyance to operate Supervisor posts
4	Supervisor	12	12	0	0	-
5	Sr. Auditor	449	237	0	212	-
6	Auditor	101	18	59	24	posts kept held in abeyance to operate 36 AAO posts and 1 Clerk/Typist post
7	Clerk/Typist	89	25	17	47	posts kept held in abeyance to operate Clerk/Typist posts in HQ and DEO posts in the office.
8	PS/Steno	20	14	0	6	
9	SGRK	1	1	0	0	
10	Hindi Officer	2	2	0	0	
11	Sr. Translator	2	0	0	2	
12	Jr. Translator	4	3	0	1	
13	Welfare Assistant	1	1	0	0	
14	Asstt. Care Taker	1	0	0	1	
15	Staff* Car Driver	1	0	0	1	
16	MTS	75	33	0	42	
17	EDP Posts	38	6	0	32	
TOTAL		1344	804	83	457	

O/o the AG (LBA & A), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Sl. No.	Name of post	Sanctioned Strength	Person in Position	Held in abeyance	Vacancy	Remarks
1	Sr. A.O	9	8	0	1	
2	AO	1	2	0	-1	
3	AAO	26	23	0	3	
4	Sr. Auditor	6	8	0	-2	
5	Auditor	2	0	0	2	
6	Clerk/Typist	2	0	0	2	
TOTAL		46	41	0	5	

Investigation into bugs planted in Ministry's office

1616. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen newspaper report titled "IB asks CBDT why it hired private snoops to investigate 'bugs planted' in FM Office", appearing on 27 June-2011 in Mail Today, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the episode of bugs planted in Finance Minister's office;

(c) the reasons for hiring a private agency by the former CBDT Chairman instead of reporting the matter to IB/RAW; and (d) what action Government proposes to take against the former CBDT Chairman for engaging private detective agency at exorbitant prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):
(a) to (d) Security audits are periodically conducted in the Ministry of Finance and the Finance Minister's Office. One such routine security check was conducted on 4th September, 2010 by the Investigation Directorate of the CBDT, which engaged the services of an expert, with domain