

(c) if so, the steps taken to check evasions of taxes and hiding of disproportionate assets;

(d) the quantum of money locked in cases pending before different tax tribunals, High Courts, Supreme Court etc. and measures taken to dispose of those cases in a time bound manner; and

(e) the quantum of black money seized during the last three years?

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

(a) Black money is generated through various legal and illegal activities, including tax evasion. Hiding of assets disproportionate to known sources of income is a consequence of generation of black money.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Drive against tax evasion is a continuous and ongoing process. The Income Tax Department takes several punitive and deterrent steps to unearth unaccounted money and curb tax evasion. These include scrutiny of tax returns; surveys, search and seizure actions; imposition of penalty; and launching of prosecution in appropriate cases. Information technology is used in a systematic way for collection and collation of information to take anti-evasion action against tax evaders.

(d) As on 31 March, 2011, the amount of tax locked up in cases pending before different tax tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court amounted to Rs. 1.03 lakh crore. Government have taken several steps to reduce litigation, such as raising of monetary limits for filing appeal; prescribing standard operating procedure; developing alternative dispute redressal channels, etc.

(e) During the last three financial years (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11), undisclosed assets of the value of Rs. 2,289 crore have been seized by the Income Tax department.

#### **Establishment DMO**

2988. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is going ahead with its plan to set up a full-fledged Debt Management Office (DMO) to manage the Government debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry is seeking cooperation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as it feels DMO can become successful only in close Co-ordination with the RBI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As announced in the Union Budget of 2007-08, a Middle Office was set up in the Ministry of Finance, as a first step towards establishment of a full fledged Debt Management Office. Ministry of Finance-Reserve Bank of India (MOF-RBI) Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) was also constituted to strengthen the Middle Office. Consequent to the announcement in the Union Budget 2011-12, comments of RBI have been sought on the legislation for Public Debt Management Agency of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Middle Office was set up with support from RBI. The strengthening of the Middle Office is guided by the MOF-RBI Joint Implementation Committee (JIC). The JIC is also overseeing preparation of the draft legislation. There is close co-ordination between RBI and the Government throughout the process of establishment of the DMO.

#### **Setting up of income tax service centres**

2989. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Department proposes to set up Income Tax Service Centres in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) how these service centres will become operational when there is an acute shortage of personnel in the Department?

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

(a) Yes. The Income Tax Department is setting up Aayakar Seva Kendras in various parts of the country.

(b) "Sevottam" is an integrated model for excellence in delivery of services by Government departments. The initiative was taken by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARP & G) and a roadmap for implementation of the project was prepared by the PMO. The Income Tax Department was one of the departments chosen for implementation of "Sevottam". The concept of "Sevottam" is being implemented in the Income-tax Department by