

(MMSCMD)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Cumulative Additional Demand			
TOTAL	254.2	284.27	356.16

As the domestic gas availability is projected to decline in the next two to three years the additional demand will have to be primarily met through imported LNG.

IT Demand letters to tax payers

*446 SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-tax Department has issued demand letters to several lakh honest income-tax payers for the year from 2001-02 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for sending such demand letters after a lapse of several years; and

(c) the details of action Government proposes to take against officers who are harassing honest tax payers.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Sir, no such demand letters have been sent to any Income Taxpayer. In fact, the Centralized Processing Centre (CPC), Bengaluru, which is processing all electronic returns filed across the country, has only issued communication letters to the taxpayers intimating the outstanding tax dues in cases where the tax arrears were uploaded on the CPC portal by the jurisdictional Assessing Officers. It was clearly stated that this communication was not a demand notice and it did not in any manner supercede the details of demand as per the records of the Assessing Officer and hence is subject to modification at any juncture.

This was done in the process of the departmental records from manual maintenance to digitized mode. The Income Tax Department has created a central repository of all tax demands for better demand management and to achieve this, all officers were asked to collate demand lying at multiple places including manual registers and upload them on to the CPC portal. Considering that the entire exercise involved massive data handling, during a meeting with Bangalore Chartered Accountant's Association, it was suggested that taxpayers should be informed about the uploaded demands, so as to enable them to take necessary action if the uploaded demands were incorrect. This measure was aimed at providing greater transparency and is a taxpayer friendly exercise which was undertaken to comply with the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (which stipulated prior intimation before adjustment of any refund).

(c) In view of the above reply, it is submitted that there was no intention of harassing the honest taxpayers. The grievances, if arisen to some taxpayers due to incorrect uploading of data were inadvertent and all field formations stand directed to dispose-off the applications for corrections on priority.

SBI regional offices in Jammu and Kashmir

*447 SHRI G. N. RATANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) had a zonal office in Srinagar in 1989 with three regional offices under it;

(b) whether the zonal office Headquarter was shifted to Jammu;

(c) if so, when the shifting was made and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the only regional office headquartered to Srinagar and looking after SBI operations in Kashmir valley has been bifurcated to carve out a 4th regional office in Jammu & Kashmir to look after the SBI branches in South Kashmir's four districts;

(e) whether this new regional office will be headquartered at Jammu; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not establishing the regional office in South Kashmir itself?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) State Bank of India has informed that it had a Zonal Office in Srinagar in the year 1989.

(b) & (c) Due to disturbances & worsening law and order situation, the Zonal Office was shifted to Jammu in 1992.

(d) SBI has informed that the Regional Business Office (RBO) located in Srinagar was supervising 53 branches, which had become unmanageable. Therefore, they have carved out a new Region comprising of 38 branches by taking out 12 branches from Jammu Division, 12 from Ladakh and 14 from Kashmir Valley.

(e) and (f) Since 24 of the 38 branches of the upcoming RBO-4 are already being controlled and supervised by RBO-3 at Jammu, RBO-4 has been stationed at Jammu.

Toilet facilities in Bihar

*448 SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of families without toilets in the country; and

(b) the number of families without toilets in Bihar?