

being conducted on quarterly intervals as against half-yearly earlier. These measures are intended to have a far reaching impact in ensuring effective information sharing amongst the participants at regular intervals to quickly identify and take effective action against entities indulging in unauthorised and suspect business involving fund mobilisation from public.

Preparation of debt readiness index

2455. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to soon rank States and Union Territories (UTs) on the readiness to roll out Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for all subsidies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this move to come up with a ranking is aimed at generating awareness among States and UTs to help them plug the gap in the delivery system and spurring competition among them to vie for the top slot; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the DBT Mission has entrusted the task of preparing a DBT readiness index to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Central Government is organising workshops at State/Regional level for streamlining delivery system through DBT.

(c) Does not arise.

IT litigations

2456. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 7000 direct tax related disputes pending in various High Courts involving an amount of ₹ 18,000 crore as per official data, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the IT Department has given Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (CCIT) the power to decide whether or not to appeal against a tribunal decision in the High Court without having to consult their peers or superiors, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the move is expected to cut delays in decision making and other officers to promptly comply with Tribunal ruling, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) The number of cases pending in various High Courts and the amount involved therein is as below:

High Court of Cases pending*	34,281
Amount involved * (in ₹ crore)	37,683.98

*31st March, 2015

(b) Income-tax Act empowers a Principal Chief Commissioner/ Chief Commissioner/ Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of Income tax, who is aggrieved by any order passed by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), to file an appeal to the High Court. Recently, CBDT has issued guidelines that in stations having more than one Chief Commissioner of Income-tax (CCIT), if the jurisdictional CCIT decides to file an appeal before the High Court, he is required to refer the matter to another CCIT.

(c) The above measure is a positive step to ensure that the decision to file appeal in High Court is based on thorough analysis and merits of each case. CBDT has issued instruction which lays down timelines for filing of appeal before High Court. The timelines are in conformity with the statutory provision. Standard Operating Procedure prescribed by CBDT also lays down timelines in which appeal effect has to be given in each case consequent upon ITAT's ruling.

Response of recently launched pension and insurance scheme

2457. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented Atal Pension Yojana, Prime Minister Suraksha Bima Yojana and Prime Minister Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana as announced in the Budget;

(b) if so, the response such as number of people taken policies, age-group, premium collected, insurance companies involved in issuing such policies, etc. on each scheme, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has set a target of 12 crore policies by March, 2016, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also not a fact that there have been demands to relax the age for pension scheme; and

(e) if so, whether Government is thinking in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti