

Increase in tax payers after demonetisation

2457. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has brought about 91 lakh tax payers in the tax net and detected undisclosed income worth ₹ 23,144 crore in the six months after demonetisation, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is no longer safe to deal with excessive cash as it has become easier to detect tax evaders through technology, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A total of 1.96 crore Income-tax Returns were filed during the period of 09.11.2016 to 31.03.2017, as compared to 1.63 crore returns filed during the corresponding period of FY 2015-16. Total number of new taxpayers added during FY 2016-17 was 1.26 crores. During FY 2016-17, the Income-tax Department conducted searches at 5102 premises of 1152 groups during which undisclosed income of ₹ 15,496 crore was admitted. During the same period 12526 surveys led to detection of undisclosed income of ₹ 13715 crore.

(b) The Income Tax Department (ITD) collects information of specified transactions from various sources as an ongoing process including under the Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT). Such information is utilized for various purposes including through matching with the taxpayer profile for further appropriate action. ITD has also initialized 'Project insight' which is a robust and comprehensive data warehousing and business intelligence system to, *inter alia*, enable data mining for tracking cases of tax evasion.

Further, the ITD launched 'Operation Clean Money' on 31st January 2017 with the mission to "create a tax compliant society through a fair, transparent and non-intrusive tax administration where every Indian takes pride in paying taxes" with the launch of e-verification of large cash deposits made during 9th November to 30th December 2016.

Operation Clean Money includes comprehensive risk assessment, differentiated targeted treatment, identification of new cases for online verification and identification of high risk cases using advanced analytical techniques.

People died standing in queues outside Banks

2458. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the number of people who died standing in queues outside banks since November, 2016;