GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3649 TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018/PHALGUNA 25, 1939 (SAKA)

Losses of Service Tax

3649. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many service providers, hoteliers, traders etc. are collecting Government taxes from their customers but are not depositing it in Government accounts, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the tune of losses occurred to it, if so, the details thereof during the last three financial years;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such malpractice; and
- (d) whether the Government would make it mandatory for all service providers to use and issue bar-coded billing system receipts to customers so that such tax evasion is tracked and contained, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a) &(b) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of instances where taxes are collected from the customers but are not deposited in the Government's account. Based on specific intelligence collected, detailed investigations are carried out and the due tax amount is either recovered or quasi-judicial proceedings are initiated. The details of such losses are as below:

Financial Year	No. of cases	Amount detected (Rs. Crores)
2015-16	1097	1501.49
2016-17	1086	1311.34
2017-18 (till Feb 2018)	743	766.67
Total	2926	3579.5

(c) In order to encourage compliant behavior under GST, the Government has undertaken a massive awareness and educational campaign by regularly issuing advertisements in the media (Print/Voice/Visual) to educate the taxpayers about GST laws and procedures. Further, CBEC has conducted various workshops and town hall meetings to educate the taxpayers in this regard. In addition to this, social media (Twitter) has also been extensively used for disseminating information regarding GST laws, rules and tax rates.

(d)The GST Council has constituted a Committee on invoices under the chairmanship of CEO, GSTN to examine the feasibility of generating invoices on the GST portal and to suggest an incentive scheme to encourage the taxpayers to upload their tax paid invoices online.
