

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 70

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY THE 18th November 2019
27, KARTIKA 1941 (SAKA)

FILING OF INCOME TAX RETURNS

70. SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of people in the country who file income tax return;
- (b) the number of income tax payers in the country during the last ten years, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps which have been taken to increase the taxbase in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

- (a) A total of **6.33** crore persons (including business entities) had filed income-tax returns in FY 2018-19.
- (b) The number of taxpayers under income-tax for the last ten Assessment Years (AY) is as follows:

Assessment Year	Number of Taxpayers (in Crores)
2009-10	3.63
2010-11	4.13
2011-12	4.37
2012-13	4.73
2013-14	5.26
2014-15	5.70
2015-16	6.14
2016-17	6.92
2017-18	7.43
2018-19	8.46

Note: A "Taxpayer" is a person who either has filed a return of income for the relevant Assessment Year or in whose case tax has been deducted at source in the relevant Financial Year but the taxpayer has not filed the return of income.

(c) Widening of Tax base is a core function of the Income Tax Department, for which various measures have been taken, notably:-

- (i) The Income Tax Department has implemented the Non- Filer Monitoring System(NMS) which assimilates and analyses in-house information as well as transactional data received from third- parties, including Statement of Financial Transaction (SFT), Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) and Tax Collection at Source (TCS) statements, Intelligence and Criminal Investigation (I&CI) data etc. to identify such persons/entities who have undertaken high value financial transactions but have not filed their returns.
- (ii) The mechanism for collection and verification of financial information has been broadened to include data in respect of various types of high-value transactions from banks and financial institutions and high-value expenditure from commercial establishments in the form of Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT).
- (iii) The scope of TDS and TCS has been expanded by bringing more taxable transactions within their ambit.
- (iv) Quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) has been made mandatory for all transactions above rupees two lakh and for specified transactions in respect of property, shares, bonds, insurance, foreign travel, demat account etc.
- (v) Media campaign, awareness meetings and outreach programs are conducted to make citizens aware of their tax obligations and consequences of non-compliance.
