

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.119

(TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY THE 19th July 2021)
28, ASHADA 1943 (SAKA)

FILING OF TAX RETURNS

119. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of tax returns filed during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to simplify the procedure for filing Income Tax Return by removing its complexities; and
- (d) the relaxation provided by the Government to encourage filing of Income Tax Return and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)

Financial Year	Total Number of ITRs Filed (Including Revised Returns)
2018-19	6,74,22,661
2019-20	6,78,97,450
2020-21	7,38,94,135

- (c) The Government has taken the following steps to simplify the procedure for filing Income Tax Returns :
- i. Pre-filling of various schedules of the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) which will reduce the time and effort required to fill the ITRs on the part of the taxpayers.
 - ii. Actively promoting e-Verification of ITRs and establishing complete (100%) paperless environment.
 - iii. Providing online access to taxpayers of their Tax Deducted at Source(TDS), tax payments, specified financial transactions and other information by bringing about amendments in Form 26AS thereby helping them file their ITRs easily.
 - iv. Reducing processing time of returns on year-on-year basis.
 - v. Educating and empowering the tax payers by pro-actively engaging with tax payers through digital media and enhancing transparency.
- (d) (i) The Government has increased the total income limit for availing rebate under section 87A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 from Rs.3,50,000/- to Rs.5,00,000/- with effect from Assessment Year 2020-21. Taxpayers can avail the rebate under 87A of the Act without paying taxes on income of upto Rs.5,00,000/- provided they file their ITRs.
- (ii) Further, on consideration of difficulties being faced by the taxpayers in filing of ITRs within the prescribed statutory time-limits under the Act, the time limits have been extended from time to time during the last three years. This has enabled taxpayers to file their original returns without payment of late fee and file belated returns or revised returns which was otherwise not permissible after expiry of statutory time limits.
