



JOINT COUNCIL OF ACTION
INCOME TAX EMPLOYEES FEDERATION &
INCOME TAX GAZETTED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
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PRESS STATEMENT

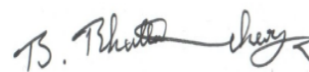
About 15 lakh crores is the targeted revenue collection of the Govt. of India for this fiscal, of which 56% i.e. about 8 lakh crores are to be collected by Income tax Department. As in the last three years, this is unlikely to attain. From the point of view that the targeted Direct Tax collection is even less than 8% of Indian GDP for the year 2014-15, at constant price, it must not be construed as insurmountable.

In 2013-14, the Government agreed for a major overhaul of the structure of Income Tax Department to allow itself to function efficiently and to enable it to combat the challenges from the new business environment and simultaneously to maximise the revenue collection. Its workforce was raised by adding 20,751 new personnel in different cadres in 2013-14 through the cadre restructuring exercise.

The top management positions in the Department are held by the IRS officers, who are a little more than half of the cadre strength of 4923 officers. But they constitute hardly 4% of the total workforce of the Department. But they alone have the privilege of interacting with the political authority, take decisions and the responsibility of the efficient and effective functioning of the department. The entire workforce viz. the employees and the promotee officers, who hold the middle management position, are on the path of agitation. They are already in the path of Agitation from 09-09-2015 in the form of non co-operation and have decided to be on a one-day Strike action on 08.10.2015, which would certainly threaten the very functioning of the Department in all its aspects and would, seriously affect the tax collection this year adversely. They are agitated over the total apathy on the part of the CBDT and the attitude of the senior officers. Despite the lapse of more than two years, no steps are taken by the CBDT to provide basic minimum infrastructure, viz. sitting accommodation for the vast number of officers and staff; about 30% to 40% posts are vacant due to not taking effective steps to fill up those; not even notifying the recruitment rules which are the basic requirement of the recruitment and promotion; and above all taking no steps to promote eligible officers for promoting them as Asst. Commissioners. There are

almost 900 posts i.e. more than two-third of the cadre of Asstt. Commissioners, lying vacant in this important cadre of Asst. Commissioners in the Department, which are to be filled up by promotion. They are responsible for making assessment and collecting taxes. No steps are taken by CBDT to convene Departmental Promotion Committee and promote officers. The CBDT has not even computed the exact number of Officers to be promoted for the Recruitment Years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. So many Directorates have been created so that the IRS officers can have posting at Delhi. There is a full-fledged Directorate of Infrastructure but doing nothing to alleviate the problem of providing office space to staff and officers. There is sufficient fund for outsourcing the functions but nothing to purchase computers/ stationary etc. or to effect payment for casual/contingent/contract workers. There appears to be a deliberate callousness on the part of the Administration so as to drag the employees and officers to agitation programmes and put the blame on them for not achieving the tax collection target. It is the continued procrastination in decision making by the top bureaucrats that has brought about the present situation. Since the Joint Council of Action, the united platform of employees and promotee officers, do not have forum to interact with the political authority of the Ministry of Finance, they are compelled to tread the path of struggles. They feel rightly that the agitation programmes and strike action is in the national interest in as much as early resolution to the problems by the intervention of political authority will bring about a conducive climate to concentrate on tax collection and reach the target during the available period of the next six months.

The Central Joint Council of Action issues this Press Statement with the fervent hope that the Indian print and electronic media will give coverage to it in the national interest and through that the political authority will become aware of the real reasons for not achieving the collection target and take corrective and appropriate steps to address the grievances of the promotee officers and employees of the Income Tax Department.



(Bhaskar Bhattacharya)



(Rupak Sarkar)

Note : This is the draft Press Statement prepared by the Central JCA. Every State JCA will submit the Press Statement in vernacular on 16th September, 2015. The State JCA may modify the Press Statement as per their requirement.