**I-T dept uses data matching to identify 21.75 lakh tax non-filers**

Continuing its drive to nab tax evaders, the income tax department has identified additional 21.75 lakh potential non-filers. The department has already written to 50,000 such entities, urging them to pay up.

The department has identified these cases through its data matching exercise and has made the same available on the e-filing portal of the department so that such PAN card holders can view the information and respond accordingly.

“The information will be shown only to the specific PAN holder when the PAN holder logs into the e-filing portal. The PAN holder will be able to submit the response electronically and keep a print-out of the submitted response for record purposes,” an official statement said.

Early last year, in February, the I-T department had initiated a business intelligence project to identify PAN holders who had not filed I-T returns and about whom specific information was available in Annual Information Return (AIR), Central Information Branch (CIB) data and TDS returns. As a result, 12.19 lakh non-filers holding PAN were zeroed in.

Subsequently, the department sent them letters containing a summary of information of their financial transactions along with a customised response sheet with a view to know why the person has not filed the income tax return.

As a result, “5,36,220 returns have been received from the target segment. Self assessment tax of Rs 1,017.87 crore and advance tax of Rs 898.22 crore has also been paid by the target segment,” the statement said.

For taxpayers who have shifted to different locations, the department has sought help of field formations to catch hold of such evaders. The finance ministry said the exercise would continue till all potential non-filers are covered.

Source : The Financial Express

Date : 24.02.2014