

Govt plans to reward honest taxpayers with priority services

New Delhi: The government is working on a policy proposal to reward honest taxpayers in availing public services on priority, officials said on Sunday. According to the proposal, honest taxpayers will be empowered with “priority service” while at airports, railways stations and at highway tolls, among other rewards.

A committee under the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the policy-making body for the Income Tax Department, is working to chalk out the broad parameters for the proposal. The proposal will be vetted by the finance ministry and sent for final approval to the Prime Ministers Office before it is cleared by the Union cabinet.

A cabinet note to enhance the output of the Central Processing Centre (CPC) of the department in Bengaluru has already been sent. The capacity and automation of the CPC, the repository of tax payer’s data and their IT returns, is proposed to be enhanced so that refunds can be issued real-time and ITRs of small taxpayers (with single source of income) can be processed within hours and not days, officials said.

Last year, PM Modi had urged the department to enhance taxpayer services and ensure that honest taxpayer are given due importance.

It is proposed that taxpayers who have been consistently paying their taxes or even just filing their returns can be hosted at civic receptions held by prominent government functionaries and are honoured publicly. A unique identity number could be given to such taxpayers or their permanent account number could be flagged as special as part of this maiden taxpayer facilitation proposal, officials added. Few years back, the CBDT had started a process by which diligent taxpayers were sent thank you or appreciation notes over email under the name of the CBDT Chairman. PTI