

CBDT launches e-portal for filing complaints on tax evasion, benami properties

By TIOL News Service

NEW DELHI, JAN 13, 2021: TO encourage citizen participation in curbing tax evasion, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched dedicated e-portal to receive and process complaints of tax evasion, foreign undisclosed assets as well as complaints regarding benami properties.

The Ministry of Finance today said that the steps have been taken to facilitate e-governance and encourage the participation of citizens as stakeholders in the taxation process.

"The public can now file a Tax Evasion Petition through a link on the e-filing website of the [Income Tax] department," said the ministry.

The facility allows any person with a valid PAN or Aadhaar card or without one, to file a complaint against another person.

"After an OTP based validation process (mobile and/or email), the complainant can file complaints in respect of violations of the Income Tax Act, 1961, Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Assets and Income) Imposition of Tax Act, 1961 and Prevention of Benami Transactions Act (as amended) in three separate forms designed for the purpose," said an official statement.

This measure comes days after the government announced the set-up of Foreign Asset Investigation Units (FAIUs) for focussed probe on cases of undisclosed assets held by Indians abroad and possession of black money in foreign shores.