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BUDGET GIVES IMPETUS FOR E-GOVERNANCE

News from www.keralaitnews.com

Tvm: The Budget for 2010-11 presented by the State Finance Minister Dr. Thomas Isaac gives a big thrust for e-Governance and also m-Governance in Kerala. In his Budget speech, he mentioned the successful implementation of the SPARK, e-Filing and e-Payment systems.

The Government has implemented the submission of returns under VAT and KGST through e-Filing. e-Payment has also been implemented. The earlier practice of dealers crowding assessing offices with returns and cheques has become a thing of the past. There is no delay in reconciliation of accounts as it has become an instant reconciliation. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has appreciated the initiative of Kerala Government. The facility for e-Payment of advance tax and downloading of statutory forms under the CST Act has been provided. Next is the implementation of e-Filing in check posts.

In addition, e-Communication facility will be introduced this year. Every VAT dealer will be provided with an email id and it would be used for service of notices and communication of circulars. Sending communication to all 1,63,000 dealers every month is a mammoth task which will consume tons of paper. By dispensing with paper communication, about 750 trees can be saved from felling. The mobile numbers of all TIN / PIN dealers will be enrolled so as to communicate with them through SMS. There is a malpractice commonly resorted to whereby goods are transported using the TIN number of a dealer without their knowledge, for evading tax. The SMS service would completely prevent such malpractices.

As a part of m-Governance, a complaint redressal cell would be formed. To start with, complaints against vehicle checking at check post and by squads will be received at the call centre and the same would be forwarded to the official concerned. The action taken in the matter would be intimated. The complaint and the reply would be available in the web site of the department. This facility would become operational from this month itself.

As a part of the ongoing efforts for providing e-Services to dealers, online renewal of registration to dealers will be introduced from 01-04-2010.

It is decided to provide e-Payment facility for payment of subscription for the Traders Welfare Board at the time of VAT registration or its renewal. e-Payment of subscription shall be made mandatory.

Steps for administrative reforms based on e-governance are being effectively implemented. The most important step in this regard is the implementation of SPARK. The administrative efficiency can be drastically improved by complete digitization of the service records and with electronic determination of service benefits and payroll of the employees. Induction training will be given to all new recruits to government service by the Institute of Management in Government.

