

Chidambaram hopeful of meeting tax targets

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram Tuesday said the government was confident of meeting its revised income tax collection target for the last fiscal along with the target set for 2007-08.

Chidambaram inaugurated a videoconference facility connecting his North Block office to the offices of income tax chief commissioners in 46 cities across the country.

The minister said this facility would allow him round-the-year access to the chief commissioners, whom he could meet only once a year until now.

He said the video conferencing facility would also facilitate the department's efficiency and effectiveness to meet its tax collection targets, including the revised target for fiscal 2006-07 as well as the target set for 2007-08.

The collection target was revised from over Rs.2.11 trillion to Rs.2.29 trillion, while the target for 2007-08 has been pegged at Rs.2.67 trillion in the annual budget.

'The video conferencing facility is expected to act as a productivity booster for the income tax department as the finance ministry would be able to interact regularly with the field offices as and when required,' said Chidambaram.

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