TRANSPARENT TAXATION - HONOURING THE HONEST



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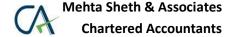
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Transparent Taxation- Honouring the Honest

The Income Tax Department has taken up a series of reforms to make tax compliance easier for taxpayers.

(a) <u>Faceless Assessment: with effect from 13th</u> <u>August 2020</u>

- Selection only through system using data analytics and AI (Artificial Intelligence)
- Abolition of territorial jurisdiction (i.e. Asseessee based on Ahmedabad may be scrutinised by Mumbai or Delhi Offices)
- Automated random allocation of cases.
- Central issuance of notices with Document Identification No.(DIN)
- No physical interface, No need to visit income tax office (It may help in reducing corruption)
- Team based assessments and team based review (This will help in avoiding prejudices of a single officer in a particular matter and will be beneficial for assesses adopting transparent accounting system and proper documentation).
- Draft assessment order in one city, review in another city and finalisation in third city.
- Powers of "Survey of Assessee Premises" taken away from local assessing officers. Only Investigation Wing and TDS Wing of the Income Tax Department will have powers of Survey.



(b) Faceless Assessment Benefits





 All the assessment orders are passed through the Faceless Assessment Scheme, 2019 shall be passed by National E - Assessment centre.



(c) <u>Faceless Assessment: Potential Practical Problem</u> <u>Areas</u>

- All documents in vernacular languages will have to be translated into English before uploading the same during the assessment.
- Assesse/Authorized representative will lose the chance to "personally explain" the complex tax issues.
- Drafting of Submissions need to be absolutely spot on, otherwise there
 may be large disallowances of expenses/additions to income and increase
 in litigations.
- Chartered Accountant/Income Tax Consultant Offices have to be upgraded for high speed scanning of documents and internet bandwidth.
- Practical Issues at Assessing Officer level in handling a lot of soft data without hard documents.

(d) <u>Faceless Appeal</u>: with effect from 25th <u>September 2020</u>

- Appeals to be random allotted to any officer in the country.
- The identity of officers deciding appeal will remain unknown.
- Reply to notice electronically
- No need to visit officer/office.
- The appellate decision will be team based and reviewed.

(e) Faceless Assessment and Appeal - Exceptions

- Serious frauds, Major Tax Evasion, Sensitive and search matters
- International Tax
- Black Money and Benami property