Minutes of Video Conference of Systems Directorate with field formations held on 16.12.2019

A meeting of System Directorate with the officers of field formations was held on 16.12.2019 through video conference. The video conference was chaired by Pr. DGIT (Systems). CSIT (Admin.) of all PCCIT charges, field officers, CIT (ITBA) and his team along with technical team attended.

2. In the opening remarks, Pr. DGIT (S) highlighted that though the situation has improved since last video conference held on 11.12.2019 but still the pendency of time barring assessments is very high. It was also pointed out that even dry run is pending in about 10% of cases, with Delhi, Bihar & Jharkhand and International taxation charges having pendency of 23% each. The Pr. DGIT (S) exhorted all the AOs to expeditiously complete all pending assessments.

3. The field formations were requested to urgently complete the refund approval/withholding action u/s 241A pending with the AOs/supervisory authorities in all time barring cases. The information of all such cases has already been provided to the AOs/supervisory authorities and is available in the MIS on ITBA. Total no. of such cases are 3551. It was categorically emphasised that if pendency u/s 241A is not cleared by the AO and their supervisory officers, ITBA will not be in a position to complete the computation in these cases. A daily list of action pending charge wise will be published to help supervisory officers to get the pending action completed.

4. It was informed that revised FAQs have been issued by the ITBA and CPC (ITR) clarifying various common issues. It was highlighted that these FAQs have been prepared keeping in mind various generic issues faced by the field formations and are extremely useful in resolution of various issues at AOs level only and
5. It was intimated that in respect of cases selected during CASS 2019 on invalid returns, necessary clarification is expected from Board and necessary instruction in this regard will be released from ADG -2, New Delhi shortly. The ITBA team informed that the substantial number of tickets will be resolved after this clarification is issued.

6. It was pointed out by Kolkata charge that Digital Signature of some of the officers working in field are going to expire in the last week of December and requested that the same may be renewed urgently as in normal course it takes more than 10 days to get renewed. It was directed by the Pr. DGIT (Sys.) to ITBA team that the list of all such officers may be prepared and necessary arrangement should be made to get the digital signature renewed as early as possible. Further Kolkata raised issues regarding pendency of tickets for more than 30 days and also problems pertaining to manual order upload and generation of DIN in block assessment.

7. Delhi charge raised issues regarding pendency of tickets for more than 30 days. There were 329 timebarring tickets out of which 62 were pending with ADG(S)-2 and 1 pending with ADG(S)-1. The PDGIT(S) directed the team headed by Shri Sharvan Kumar Meena, Addl. DIT(S) to immediately identify such cases where identical issues are involved and group/bunch them together and such report be circulated amongst AOs so that they are aware of the reason for pendency of their tickets. Further technical team was directed to get the long pending tickets resolved immediately.

8. In Chennai 171 tickets were pending for more than 10 days and 57 cases where approval is pending with ADG(S)-2. In Mumbai charge it was stated that in cases of defective return of Income filed u/s 139 (9) subsequent to the original return necessary guideline or FAQ must be issued.

9. On the issue of long pending tickets, Pr. DGIT (Systems) emphasised that all CIT(Admin.) should critically analyse the pending tickets along with EDP officers posted there which may help in getting early resolution and also suggested to forward the list on which System can act immediately.

10. It was pointed out by Bengaluru that there is problem in respect of computation of income 327 such tickets were pending with CPC-JTR, Bengaluru.
In response to the remarks from the field that a number of tickets are pending with CPC it was clarified by CPC that an analysis of 327 tickets pending with CPC as on 13.12.2019 had already been carried out and shared with the filed formation for their information. This included 170 cases of manual orders which errored out during accounting. In 41 of these cases the resolution of error required ITBA action and CPC had taken up the same with ITBA. Remaining 129 manual orders which errored out due to technical reasons at CPC were getting addressed at CPC. Pr. DGIT (Systems) directed the CPC, Bangalore team/ITBA team to resolve these tickets expeditiously and also share the actions taken in respect of pending tickets with the field on a regular basis.

As regards the query from the field that the computation results from CPC required modifications DIT, CPC indicated that three such scenarios involving (a) deduction u/s 10AA, (b) income computation u/s 115BBE, and (c) computation of rebate on agricultural income were identified earlier for modification of the processing rules. Out of these the rule changes were already completed in the first two scenarios and the assessing officers were requested to re-initiate computation. In the last scenario, it was informed that the rule change will be deployed in a day or two and the AOs will be informed suitably to re-initiate computation. He also advised that in cases where clarification is required by the AOs in respect of CPC computation, they may contact the AO Helpdesk at CPC for details instead of raising tickets.

11. CIT (Admin) Nagpur raised the issue that System is not allowing passing of order u/s 143(3) in cases where defect in the return was removed by assessee u/s 139(9).

It was informed by systems team that there are about 2400 such cases in which direction has been sought from CBDT. Necessary enablement will be provided in the ITBA on the basis of CBDT instructions.

12. Further, it was submitted by Kanpur charge that there was an issue of connectivity in the smaller station under RCC Agra. In response this Pr. DGIT(S) asked the EDP officer posted at Agra to personally visit all the smaller stations and analyse the issue and report the matter to ADG(S)-4 and ITBA at the earliest.
13. The Pr. DGIT(S) urged the CsIT (Admn.) and supervisory officers to constantly watch the performances/ pendency of all AOs who are still having large pendency.

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O/o the Pr. Director General of Income Tax (Systems)

Copy to:
1. P.S to Chairman, CBDT.
2. P.S. to all Members (CBDT).
3. All Pr.CCIT & Officers of NeAC.
4. All ReAC Officers.
5. All ADGS of Systems Directorate.

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