Recent development and practice aspects related to withholding tax under Section 195

Seminar on recent changes and developments in taxation, ICAI Mumbai Chapter

CA Shailendra S. Sharma

13 February 2016

## **Agenda**



**Brief overview of TDS provisions** 

Concept of withholding tax (WHT) provisions for nonresident

Lifecycle of the WHT provisions under Section 195

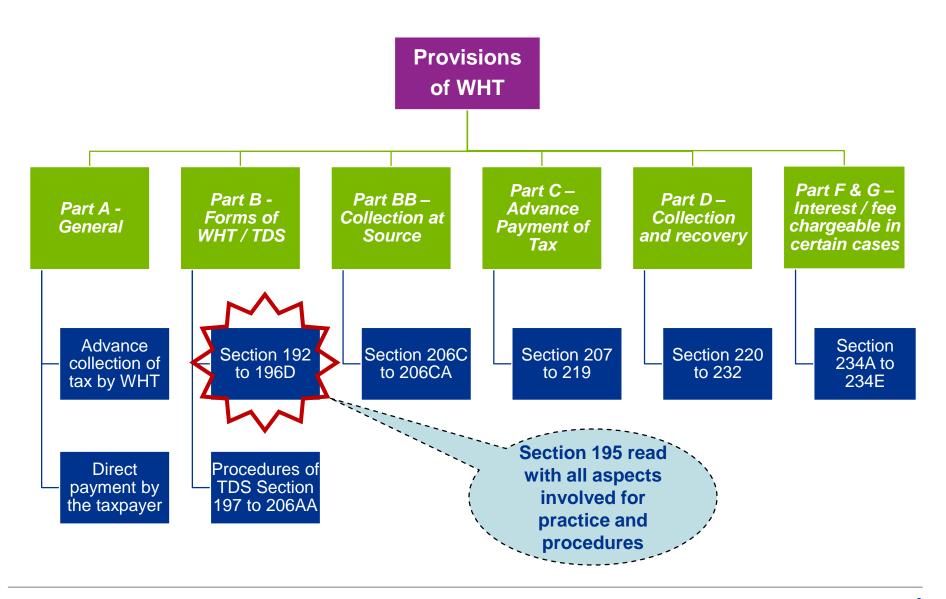
**Operational rules** 

**Case study** 

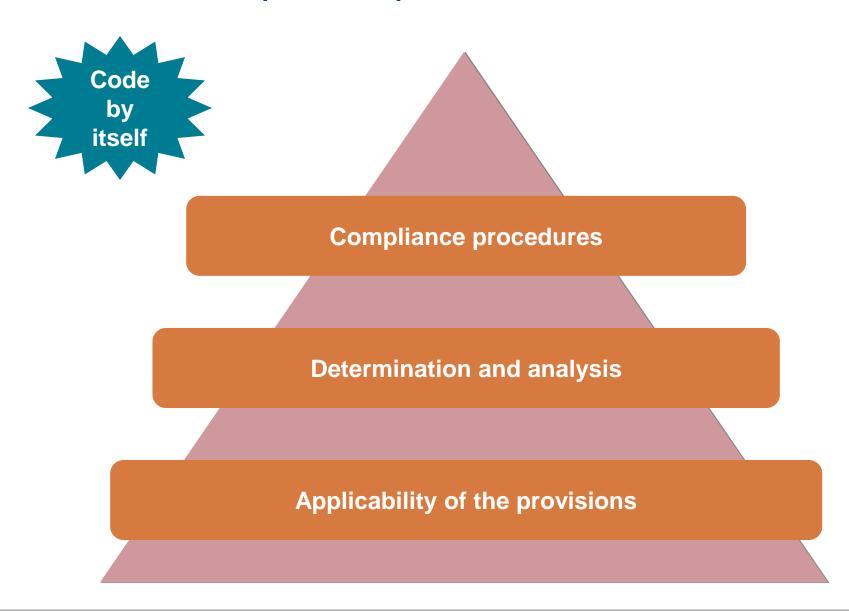
**Key takeaways** 

**Questions** 

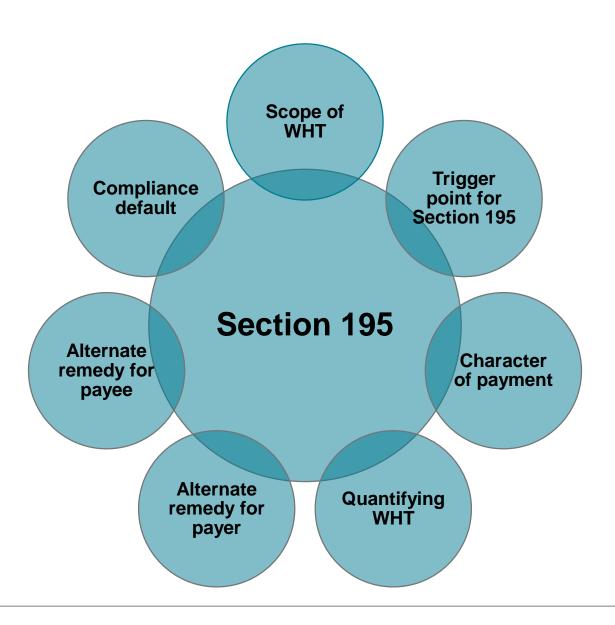
# Overview of TDS provisions - Chapter XVII, Collection & Recovery of Tax Deduction at Source

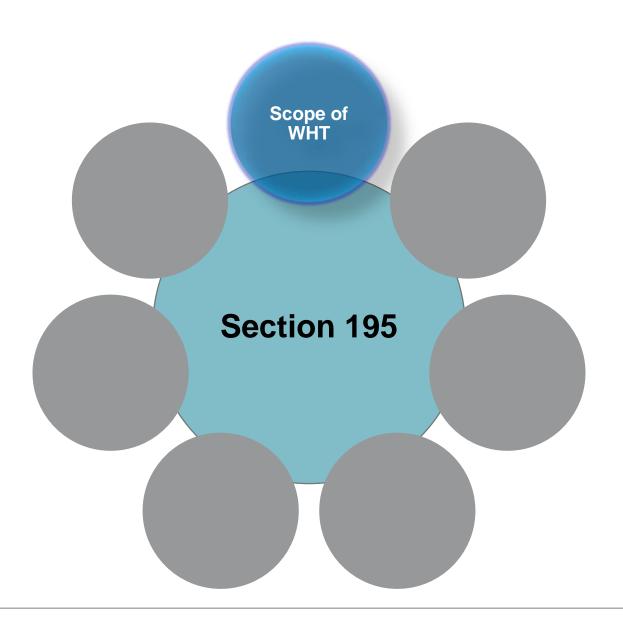


## **Concept of WHT provisions for nonresident**



## Lifecycle of the WHT provisions under Section 195





## Scope of WHT (1/2)

#### Operative provision of Section 195 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (IT Act)

"Other sums.

195. [(1) Any person responsible for paying to a non-resident, not being a company, or to a foreign company, any interest [(not being interest referred to in section 194LB or section 194LC)] [or section 194LD] or any other sum chargeable under the provisions of this Act (not being income chargeable under the head "Salaries") shall, at the time of credit of such income to the account of the payee or at the time of payment thereof in cash or by the issue of a cheque or draft or by any other mode, whichever is earlier, deduct income-tax thereon at the rates in force..."

#### Other clauses of Section 195

Clauses	Other provisions applicable for Section 195 of IT Act
195(2)	Application by "Payer" to Tax Authorities (AO) to determine appropriate proportion of income chargeable to tax
195(3)	Application by "Payee" to AO for NIL WHT certificate
195(4)	Validity of certificate issued by AO
195(5)	Powers of CBDT to issue Notifications
195(6)	Furnishing of information relating to payments
195(7)	Authority of board to specify class of person or cases to make application under Section 195(2)
195A	Income payable "net of tax" Grossing-up

## Scope of WHT (2/2)

#### **Responsibility of WHT**



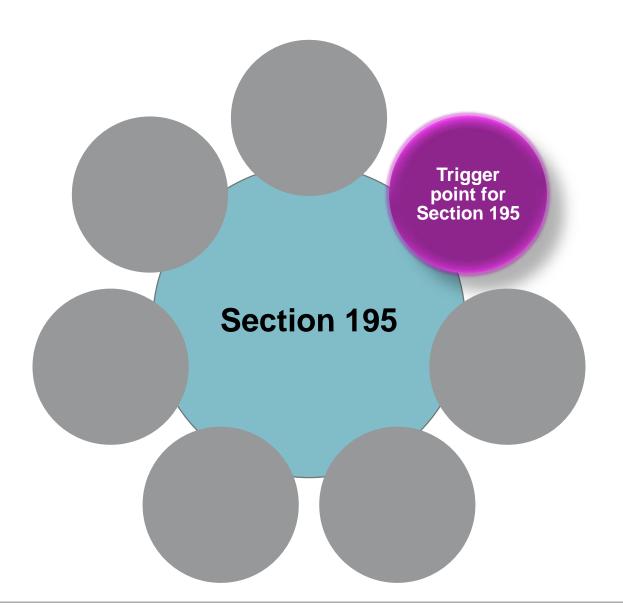
#### **Payers covered**

- "Any person" covered irrespective of their status Includes person under Section 2(31) responsible for paying (including individuals and HUF)
- Payer itself in case of company, and the company includes principle officer
- It also includes all nonresidents having taxable presence in India or not Explanation 2 to Section 195;
   Circular No. 726 dated 18 October 1995

#### **Payees covered**

- Agent of a nonresident in India?
- Resident but not ordinary resident RNOR?
- Payment made to a foreign branch of an Indian Company?

## **Virtually includes EVERYONE**



## **Trigger point for Section 195 (1/3)**

Applicability of Section 195

#### Sum chargeable to tax

- All payments covered (exclusions specified), no threshold limit prescribed
- "Any other sum chargeable" Composite provision:
  - Extends to whole of India
  - Charge of income-tax
  - Scope of Total Income:
    - Received or deemed to be received in India
    - Accrue or arises or deemed to accrue or arise in India
  - Residence in India
- Amount paid, that wholly bears character of income or Gross amount, the whole of which may or may not represent income or profits
- Section 195 would not apply if sums paid to nonresident is tax exempt in India



#### Timing of WHT

- Tax to be withheld at the time of payment / credit whichever is earlier
- Tax to be withheld even where no remittance is made, adjustment of dues
- WHT in cases where RBI approval is required
- If no income accrues to nonresident although accounting entry incorporating liability is passed, no WHT
- Payee must be ascertainable
- Time of deduction, from payers point of view and sum chargeable to tax in India from payee point of view

## Trigger point for Section 195 (2/3)

#### Sum chargeable to tax..brief insight



- Where, payment made by resident to non-resident, was an amount not chargeable to tax in India, no tax is deductible at source
- Assessee liable to deduct TDS under Section 195 on payment made to non-resident even though payment is not made in cash but made in kind
- Payer obligated to WHT, even if the receipt is not taxable in the hands of the payee in the country of residence
- Sums not liable to tax in India on satisfaction of conditions, the principles are enunciated under Circular 23/1969 and 786/2000 (now withdrawn) like (P to P, nonresident operates outside India, contract signed outside India, title of goods passed outside India, payment is directly remitted abroad, etc.). Payments to:
  - Agency commission payable to foreign agents;
  - Off-shore supply of goods and equipments; and
  - Consideration paid for outright purchase of designs and drawings is not royalty
- No significant impact of withdrawal of the Circulars
- Does amount paid as penalty to the regulators chargeable to tax under Section 195?

## **Trigger point for Section 195 (3/3)**

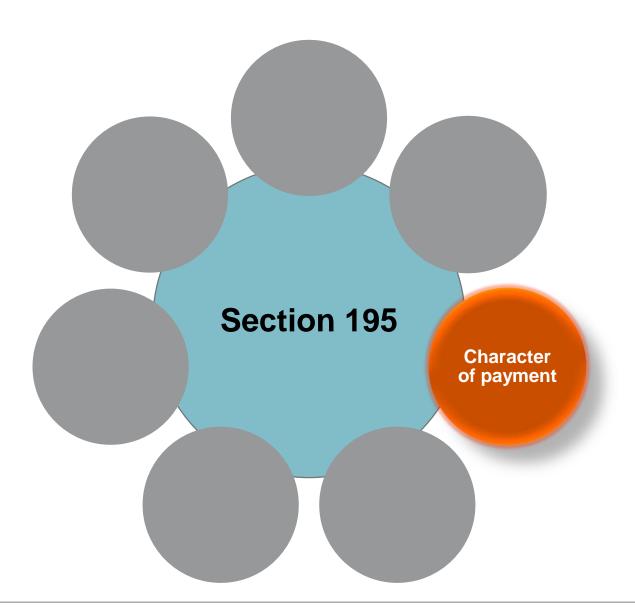
#### **Specific exclusions for WHT**



Sections	Particulars
115-O	Tax on distributed profits of domestic companies
192	Income from Salaries
194LB	Income by way of interest from infrastructure debt fund
194LC	Income by way of interest from Indian company
194LD	Income by way of interest on certain bonds and Government securities

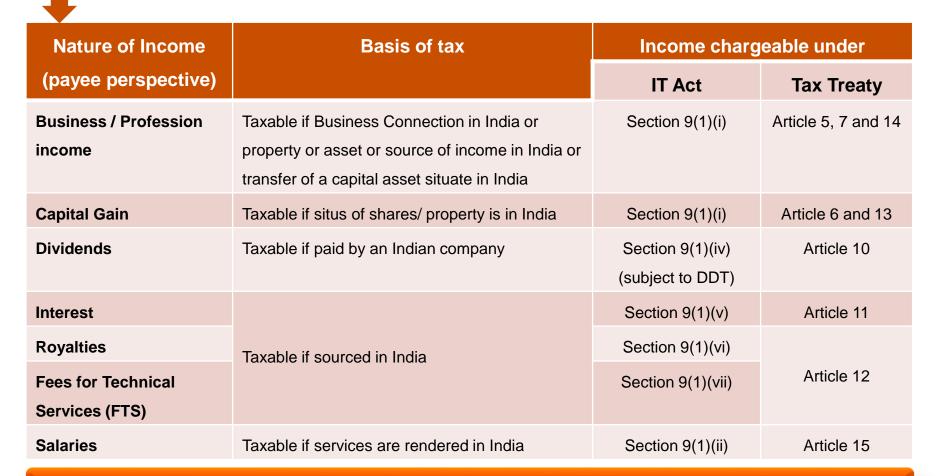
## Other specific sections

196B	Income from units
196C	Income from FCCBs or GDRs of Indian companies
196D	Income from FIIs now FPI except Capital Gains

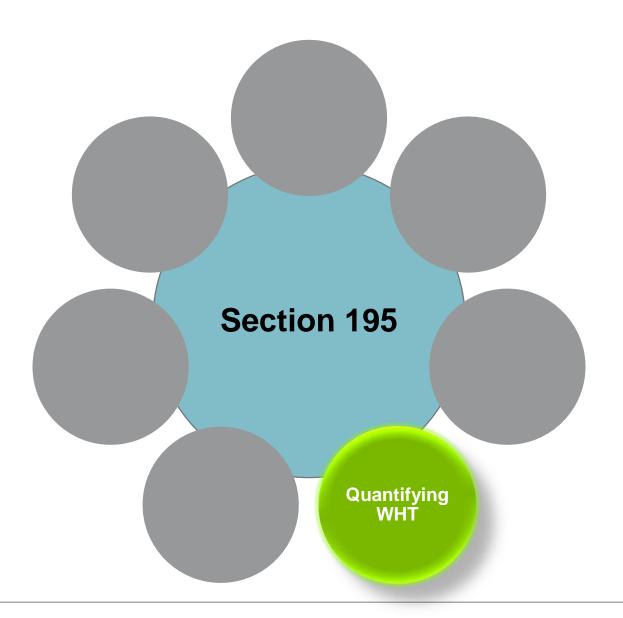


## **Character of payment**

#### **Determining the nature of payment**



Provisions of the IT Act or Tax Treaty, to the extent more beneficial to the taxpayer to apply



## **Quantifying WHT (1/3)**

#### Rates in force



- Rates in force as defined under Section 2(37A) of the IT Act
- Rates of income-tax specified in IT Act / Tax Treaty under Section 2(37A)(iii), beneficial rates to apply
- The exchange rate is applicable as per Rule 26 SBI TT buying rate
- Rates prescribed by tax treaty is generally inclusive of surcharge and education cess
- Tax to be withheld under Section 195 is on gross basis

#### If PAN not furnished under IT Act, then?

- Section 206AA, is a non-obstante provision that overrides the IT Act effective 1-4-2010
- Attracted when the payee does not have a PAN or discloses incorrect PAN to the payer
- Section 206AA provides for WHT at the <u>higher</u> of the following rates, namely:
  - Specified rate in the relevant provisions of the IT Act; or
  - Rate / rates in force; or
  - **20%**

## **Quantifying WHT (2/3)**

#### Section 195A – Income payable "net of tax" (Grossing-up)



- In the event of tax chargeable on any income is borne by the payer
- For the purposes of WHT under Section 195, income should be increased to such amount as would, after WHT thereon at the rates in force, be equal to the net amount payable to the payee
- Section 195A does not apply on notional income under Section 44BB
- Friction between Section 206AA and 195A Section 206AA applicable or not for grossing-up under Section 195A of IT Act?
- Tax credit claimed by the payee to be restricted commercially Compliance under Section 203?

#### Illustration of Section 195A

Particulars Particulars Particulars Particulars	Amount in INR
Amount payable to nonresident	100
Add: WHT (assumed to be 10% as per the tax treaty) grossed-up (10*100/90)	11.11
Total income	111.11
Less: WHT applicable at 10%	11.11
Net amount payable to the nonresident (Recipient)	100

## **Quantifying WHT (3/3)**

#### **Development on Section 206AA**



- Overriding provision specifically dealt in Tribunal rulings where PAN was not obtained by nonresident
- Considering the matter will be settled at the Tribunal level, initial demand may be raised
- The ruling requires a careful analysis on the following premises being unaddressed

Meshing issue of section 2(37A), 200A read with section 206AA

WHT rate is not final payment

**Rates in force** 

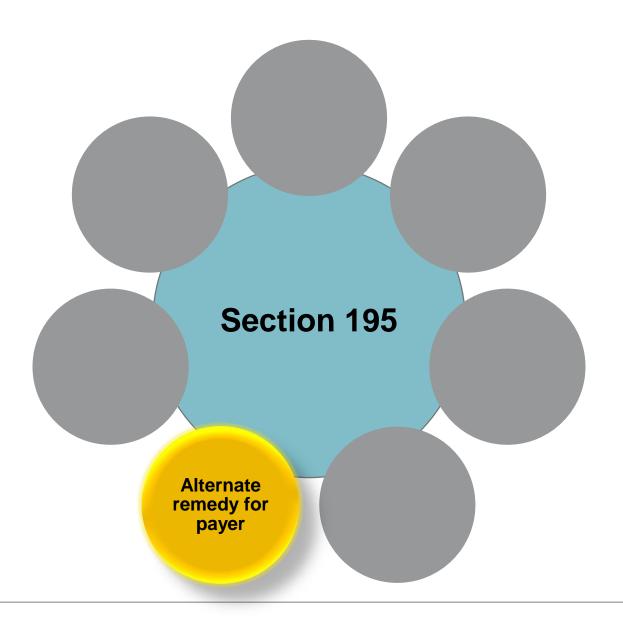
No specific discussion or reference on these particular aspects

Rulings

Ruling of Bosch Ltd was not considered and distinguished

The context of Eli Lily ruling on taxability is not referred

Applicability of Eli Lily was restricted to Section 192(1) salary



#### **Alternate remedy for payer**

#### Application by payer to the AO under Section 195(2) and (4)



whom?

The application to be made by the payer before the jurisdictional tax authority

When to apply?

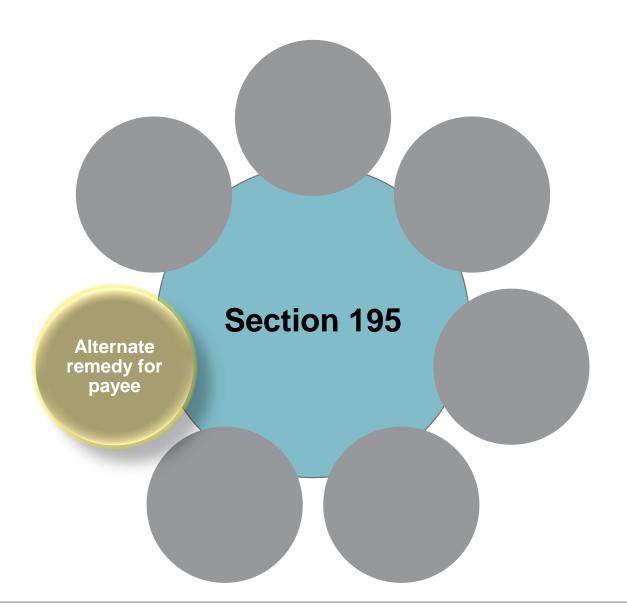
When the payer is in doubt and believes that the whole of sum payable is not chargeable to tax in India

**Process** 

The payer may approach the tax authority to determine the portion of income chargeable to tax in India

#### Consequence

- AO may issue a certificate, determining the portion of income chargeable to tax
- The permission is valid for the period specified
- No specified time limit available to pass the order under Section 195(2)
- Order under Section 195(2) is:
  - appealable after payment of tax
  - amenable to revision under Section 263
- Decision under Section 195(2) is inconclusive in determination of income in case of foreign entity



#### Alternate remedy for payee

## Application by payee to the AO under Section 195(3),(4) and (5)

- Payee to make application in the prescribed form (Form 15C or form 15D) for no WHT
- Prescribed conditions under Rule 29B:
  - carries on business / profession in India for 5 years and has prescribed value of assets in India;
  - been regularly assessed to Income-tax;
  - not defaulted in tax, interest, penalty, fine or any other sum payable; and
  - not been subjected to penalty under Section 271(1)
- AO may issue provisional Nil WHT certificate
- Certificate issued by the AO valid for the Financial
   Year mentioned therein or until cancelled
- Renewal after the expiry or within 3 months before expiry of the certificate
- Certificate issued by AO can be prospective only
- Application after the payment of tax not entertained Circular 774 dated 17 March 1999

# Application by payee to the AO under Section 197(1)

- Application to be made by the payee under Section
   197(1) for lower / no WHT in prescribed form (Form 13)
- Prescribed conditions under Rule 28AA:
  - Tax payable on estimated or existing income;
  - Tax paid of last 3 previous years; and
  - Details of advance tax, TDS & TCS
- AO to issue certificate indicating rate / rates of tax whichever is higher of the following:
  - Average rate determined on the basis of advance tax: or
  - Average of average rates of tax paid in last 3 years
- AO to issue certificate for lower / Nil WHT
- Certificate issued by the AO valid for such period mentioned therein or until cancelled
- Application to be made before the payment / credit whichever is earlier
- Advisory for system validated 197 certificate issued

## Alternate remedy for payer and payee

#### **Chartered Accountants' (CA) Certificate under Section 195(6)**

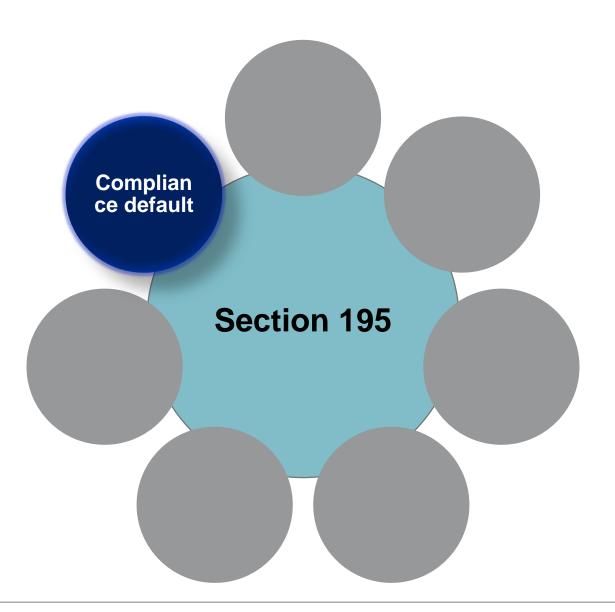
- Payment to nonresident also permitted by obtaining CA certificate as prescribed under Circular 759,
   read with Circular 10/2002 dated 9/10/2002
- Rule introduced by CBDT Notification

Detailed procedures discussed in the ensuing slides of operational rules

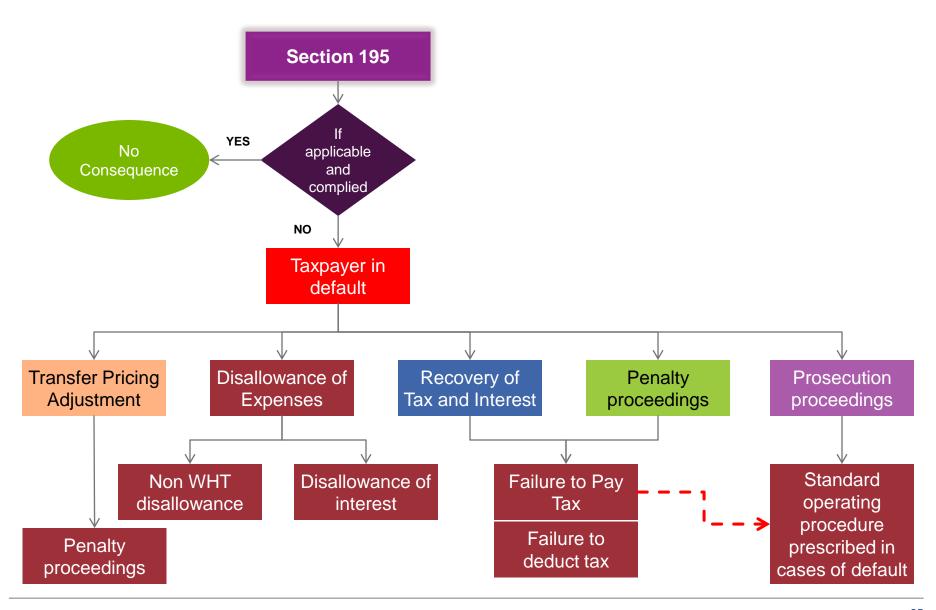
#### **Advance Ruling under Chapter XIX-B of IT Act**



- Ruling by quasi-judicial authority on reference by payer / payee
- Binding ruling on applicant as well as tax authorities unless change in facts / law (diluted)
- Upfront determination of taxability of transactions undertaken by nonresidents
- Fast track mechanism, protracted litigation may be avoided with certainty in tax treatment
- Ruling is appealable before the High Court



## **Compliance default**



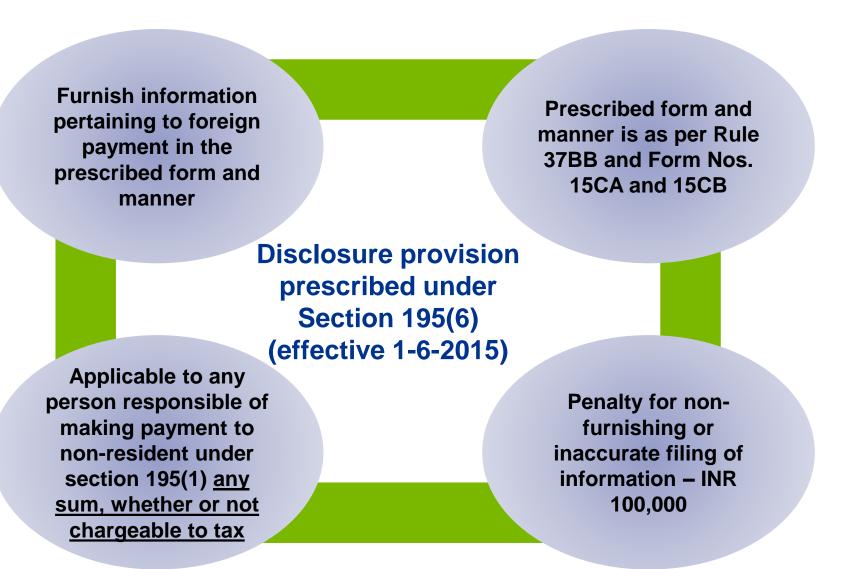
## **Operational rules (1/9)**

#### **Provisions for CA Certificate**



- Circular 10/2002 authorizes remittance of money through a CA Certificate
- CA Certificate required also for trade payments RBI Circular No. 32 dated 19 July 2007
- Provision under Section 195(6) introduced by Finance Act, 2008 for CA certificate
- Rule 37BB introduced by CBDT vide Notification 30/2009 dated 25/03/2009:
  - Forms 15CA and 15CB to intimate payments to nonresidents and manner of disclosing amount:
    - Form 15CA, prescribes information to be furnished online by the payer; and
    - Form 15CB, prescribes format of CA Certificate to be obtained
- Taxpayer not absolved from penalty / prosecution if found that WHT was lower than required
- CA certificate merely acts as a guidance and is not a substitute to adjudication by the AO
- Procedure for remittance was amended from 01 October 2013, with significant change in the procedure, being more technological robust and detailed
  - Specified list of 28 payments like outbound investments, gifts, etc. exempt from the procedures
- Notification issued on 16 December 2015 to amend Rule 37BB for new forms and compliances

## **Operational rules (2/9)**



## **Operational rules (3/9)**

# Rule 37BB amended effective 1 April 2016 with an aim to strike balance between burden of compliance and collection of information

- Individuals exempt to comply with Form 15CA and 15CB procedures if:
  - Payment or aggregate of such payment does not exceed INR 5 lacs; and
  - Remittance does not require RBI approval under LRS and Current Account Transactions
- Specified list of remittances expanded to 33 for non compliance of Rule and additions include:

- Enhanced compliance of 15CA and 15CB information to be shared with Principal Director of Income-tax (Systems) including filing of quarterly information on remmitance by the AD in Form 15CC
- Revised Form Nos. 15CA and 15CB divided in 4 parts:

Part A	Remittance does not exceed INR 5 lacs	Form 15CA	CA Certificate under Form 15CB if payments exceed INR 5 lacs and are chargeable to tax
Part B	Sum chargeable to tax and lower WHT certificate obtained under Section 197/195(2)/195(3)	& 15CB	Sum not chargeable to tax under the provisions of the Act  Part D

## **Operational rules (4/9)**

#### **Suggested method for CA Certificate**

Steps	Action plan
Payment covered under Section 195	Payment from resident or from non resident to nonresident
Verify factual documents	Invoice, Contracts, Legal Status, obtain declaration, PAN, etc.
Determine character	Classification of payment, Business, Royalty, FTS, etc.
Evaluate taxability	
Under IT Act	Income-tax rates, Grossing-up, Section 206AA, Case law update
Under tax treaty	No PE, TP analysis, beneficial owner, entity characterization, Article, LOB clause, Obtain TRC, MFN, Protocol to the tax treaty, Technical explanation to the tax treaty, Model commentaries
Specific orders	Verify specific orders received from tax authorities, 195(2), etc.
Follow compliance	Complete the Form comply with WHT deadlines for deposit

#### **Tax Residency Certificate (TRC)**

- TRC requirement for all nonresidents to claim tax treaty benefits
- Furnishing of TRC mandatory to avail tax treaty benefits:
  - SC in the case of UOI v. Azadi Bachao Andolan
     [2003] 263 ITR 706 (SC)
  - Circular 789 dated 13 April 2000
  - Shome Committee report on GAAR recommends that Circular 789 of 2000 should be retained
- Prescribed additional information to be furnished along with TRC



CBDT clarified that the additional information prescribed may not be required if it already forms part of the TRC

Notification No. 57/2013 dated 1/08/2013 [F.No.142/16/2013-TPL] revised the Rule 21AB

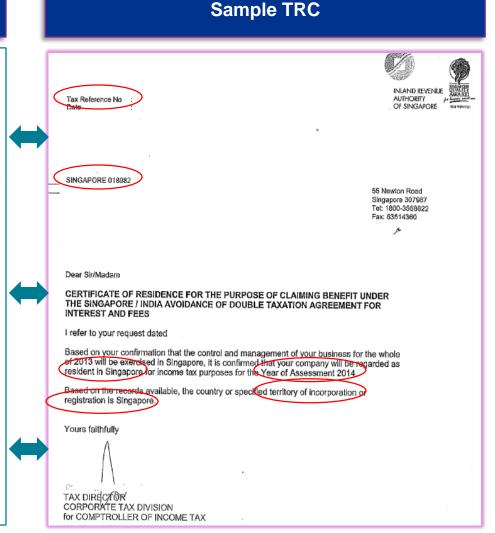
## **Operational rules (5/9)**

#### **Prescribed Form 10F**

The additional details required to be furnished in Form 10F under Rule 21AB:

- 1. Status (Individual, Company, Firm, etc.) of the taxpayer
- 2. PAN of the taxpayer, if allotted
- Nationality (in case of an individual) or country or specified territory of incorporation or registration (in case of others)
- 4. Taxpayer's tax identification number or a unique number, as the case may be
- Period for which the residential status, as mentioned in the TRC, is applicable and
- 6. Address of the taxpayer during the period for which the certificate is applicable

CBDT clarified that declaration may not be required if TRC contains above particulars



## **Operational rules (6/9)**

#### Form 15CA Form 15CB Part B Form No. 15CB (To be filled up if the remittance is chargeable to tax and exceeds fifty thousand rupees and the aggregate of such remittances made during the financial year exceeds two lakh fifty thousand rupees) (See rule 37BB) Section A GENERAL INFORMATION Certificate of an accountant1 Name of the remitter PAN of remitter Area Code AO Type Range Code have examined the agreement (wherever applicable) Area Code Mr/Ms/M/s\*....(Remitters) REMITTER Principal Place of Business TAN of remitter 1 and Mr./Ms./M/s\* (Beneficiary)... Complete address, email and phone number requiring the above remittance as well as the relevant documents and books of account of the remitter required for ascertaining the nature of remittance and for determining the rate of deduction Status 11 In case of company - If domestic, write 'l' and if of tax at source as per provisions of Charter- XVII-B. other than domestic. --write '2' PAN of recipient of recipient remittance <sup>iii</sup> remittance We hereby certify the following :-Status REMITEE AName and address of the beneficiary of the Address Country remittance is made: remittance Principal place of business Email address (ISD code) -Phone B 1. Country to which remittance is made Country: Number Currency: In Indian Amount payable In foreign currency : (a) Name of the Accountant v signing the certificate ACCOUNTANT Name of the proprietorship/firm of the accountant 3. Name of the bank Branch of the bank Address Registration no. of the accountant Date of certificate (DD/MM/YYYY) Certificate No 4. BSR Code of the bank branch (7 digit) Whether any order/ certificate u/s 195(2)/ Proposed date of remittance 195(3)/ 197 of Income-tax Act has been obtained A.O. ORDER from the Assessing Officer. (DD/MM/YYYY) Section under which order/certificate has been obtained Nature of remittance as per agreement/ Name and designation of the Assessing Officer document who issued the order/certificate In case the remittance is net of taxes. Date of order/certificate whether tax payable has been grossed up? Order/certificate number

## **Operational rules (7/9)**

#### Form 15CA Form 15CB 8. Taxability under the provisions of the Section B PARTICULARS OF REMITTANCE AND TDS (as per certificate of the accountant Income-tax Act without considering Country to which remittance is made Currency: Country: 2. In Indian Rs. Amount payable In foreign currency Name of the Bank Branch of the Bank (a) the relevant section of the Act under REMITTANCE BSR Code of the bank branch (7 digit) which the remittance is covered Proposed date of remittance (b) the amount of income chargeable to tax (DD/MM/YYYY) (c) the tax liability remittance (d) basis of determining taxable income and agreement/document tax liability In case the remittance is net of taxes, whether tax payable has been grossed up? If any relief is claimed under DTAA -Taxability under the provisions of the (i) whether tax residency certificate is Income-tax Act (without considering obtained from the recipient of remittance (Tick) (a) the relevant section of the Act under (ii) please specify relevant DTAA which the remittance is covered (iii) please specify relevant article of (b) the amount of income chargeable to tax Nature of payment as (c) the tax liability DTAA per DTAA (d) basis of determining taxable income and (iv) taxable income as per DTAA In Indian Rs. tax liability If any relief is claimed under DTAA-(v) tax liability as per DTAA In Indian Rs. (Tick) (i) Whether tax residency certificate is obtained from the recipient of remittance A. If the remittance is for royalties, fee for (ii) Please specify relevant DTAA technical services, interest, dividend, etc. (iii) Please specify relevant article of DTAA Nature of payment as per (not connected with permanent DTAA establishment) please indicate:-(iv) Taxable income as per DTAA In Indian Rs. (a) Article of DTAA (v) Tax liability as per DTAA In Indian Rs. A. If the remittance is for royalties, fee for (b) Rate of TDS required to be deducted in As per DTAA(%) (Tick) Yes technical services, interest, dividend, etc terms of such article of the applicable connected with permanent DTAA establishment) please indicate :-(a) Article of DTAA B. In case the remittance is on account of (Tick) Yes (b) Rate of TDS required to be deducted in As per DTAA (%) business income, please indicate terms of such article of the applicable DTAA (a) The amount of income liable to tax in B. In case the remittance is on account of business income, please indicate:-(b) The basis of arriving at the rate of (a) The amount of income liable to tax in deduction of tax

## **Operational rules (8/9)**

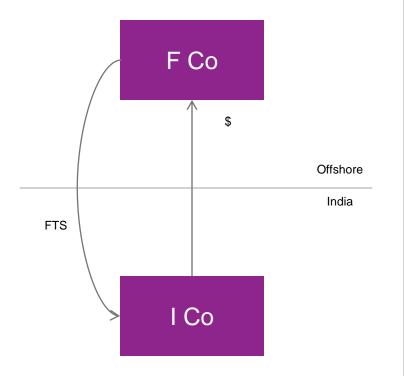
Form <sup>-</sup>	I5CA			Form	15CB
the capacity of to the best of my/our* knowledge and belief and no relevant 1 2. I/We* certify that a certificate has been obtained from an certifying the amount, nature and correctness of deduction of section 195(2)/195(3)/197 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, particular 3. In case where it is found that the tax actually deductible after deduction has not been paid or not paid in full, I/We* paid, as the case may be along with interest due. I/We* shall default as per the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. 4. 1/We* further undertake to submit the requisite documenthe nature and amount of income of the recipient of the determining my/our liability under the Income-tax Act, 1961. 5. I/We* further declare that I/we* am/are* furnishing this	of (Tick) Yes No  led (Tick) Yes	<b>* *</b>	1	C. In case the remittance is on account of capital gains, please indicate:  (a) amount of long term capital gains  (b) amount of short-term capital gains  (c) basis of arriving at taxable income  D. In case of other remittance not covered by sub-items A, B and C  (a) Please specific nature of remittance  (b) Whether taxable in India as per DTAA  (c) If yes, rate of TDS required to be deducted in terms of such article of the applicable DTAA  (d) if not, the please furnish brief reasons thereof specifying relevant article of DTAA  (Amount of TDS)  1. Rate of TDS	In foreign currency In Indian Rs As per Income-tax Act (%) or As per DTAA (%) In foreign currency
also competent to sign the return of income as per provision it.	s of section 140 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and verify		$\prod$		(DD/MM/YYYY)

## Operational rules (9/9)

Remitter obtains CA certificate in Form 15CB and pays tax as determined Single upload of Form 15CA STEPS Electronically upload the remittance details in Form online on the income-tax website 15CA (using the Digital Signature) Registered user to login and navigate to "e-File" under Prepare and Submit Take print out of Form 15CA with system generated **Online Form 15CA using Digital** acknowledgement number **Signature** Select appropriate part, Part A / Part B Submit in duplicate Form 15CA and Form 15CB along with Form A2 to the Authorized Dealer Fill the requisite details and submit **RBI / Bank makes remittance to the Payee** On submission transaction ID and acknowledgement is generated To view status / print the submitted Bank forwards copy of (Form 15CA) and CA form go to "My Account" View Form Certificate (Form 15CB) to the tax authorities

**15CA** 

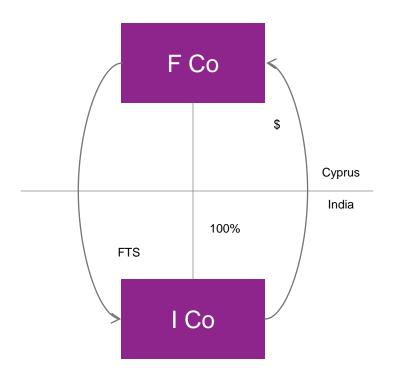
## **Case Study**



#### Applicable WHT rate for F Co in absence of PAN

- Section 206AA provides for WHT at the higher of the following rates, namely:
  - Specified rate in the relevant provisions of the IT Act; or
  - Rate / rates in force; or
  - **20%**
- F Co has a valid TRC
- What should be the WHT rate for Section 195?

## **Case Study (Variation)**



#### Applicable WHT rate for F Co in absence of PAN

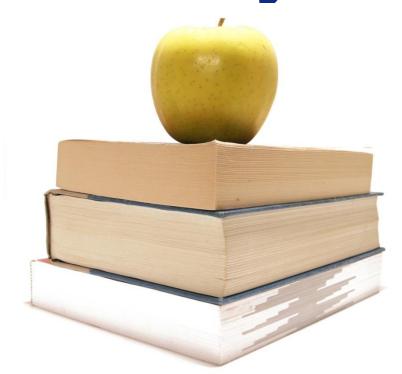
- Implications when payment made to AE?
- If payment made to Cyprus?

#### Key takeaways

Ignorance of rules may lead to undesirable litigation and cost, thus impacting business focus Alternate remedy of application before tax authority conservative, but time consuming Enhanced onerous provisions to comply with issue of CA Certificate after 01 April 2016 Cumbersome compliance provisions for non-resident payers' Stay updated or hire competent professionals for a comprehensive assessment Have patience and trust in Indian tax judiciary, accurate interpretation will lead to success



# Thank you!



## Your feedback is valuable and will help me improvise my skill-sets

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## **Biography**



CA Shailendra S. Sharma

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Shailendra is an international tax professional with over 10 years' of experience in Big 4 accounting firm in India and Singapore. He has in-depth knowledge in consulting multinational corporations on cross-border strategies (inbound and outbound), M&A transactions, overseas listing and regulatory advisory services. He has assisted diversified clients on M&A deals in the Private Equity, Real Estate and Infrastructure sector.

Shailendra is a frequent speaker at forums on international tax issues affecting investment within Asia Pacific. He has authored technical columns on tax issues with The International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), CCH Wolters Kluwer, Bloomberg BNA, British Chamber of Commerce, The Economic Times, Journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Infrastructure magazine EPC Age.

Shailendra is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (India CPA) and a Bachelor in Business Administration in Finance

## **Evaluation Form (1/2)**

I strive for excellence in all the sessions conducted. Your comments are valuable in achieving this goal. Therefore, please assist me by completing this form and providing constructive comments wherever appropriate, or where you feel necessary. This information will be used confidentially.

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(a)	Was the technical level of Sessions (please tick the appropriate box)						
	At the correct level ? $\square$	Too advanced? □	Too basic ? □				
(b)	How many years' experienc	e in International Corporate Ta	x do you have?				

(b) How many years' experience in International Corporate Tax do you have?

0-3 Year 

5-8 Years 

10 Years or more

#### 2. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

To answer the questions below, please use the following numbering system and if you would like to give a supporting explanation please do so.

Parameters	5	4	3	2	1
	Excellent	Good	Average	Room for	Poor
				improvement	
Does the topic covered in the session					
encourage you to attend the meeting?					
Were all the relevant topics covered in the					
presentation and clear your doubts about					
the subject?					
Were the explanations during the session					
elaborate enough to make you understand					
the subject?					

## **Evaluation Form (2/2)**

5 = Excellent	4 = Good	3 = Average	2 = Room for improvement	1 = Poor
				Assessment Figure
Withholding tax pro	visions for payments to non	nresident		
What was your ove	erall assessment of the cour	rse?		
Did the session me	eet your expectations? Plea	ase suggest a supporting exp	anation.	
Yes □				
No □				
OTHER COMMEN	TS			
Details				

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE