



8th July, 2020

To
Shri P.C. Mody
Chairman
Central Board of Direct Taxes,
9th Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan,
Khan Market,
New Delhi - 110003

Sub: Request for another Public Grievance Redressal fortnight from 15th July, 2020

Respected Sir,

At the outset, we appreciate and applaud the efforts of the Income Tax Department, Gujarat for envisaging the implementation of a non-adversarial and effective tax administration, with progressive tax policy and improved tax compliance. The critical steps taken by the department such as proper litigation management, frequent interaction with the taxpayers, issuing prompt clarifications and strengthening compliance and enforcement functions have enhanced the trust in tax authorities and are very well taken note of by the members of trade and industry.

The “**Public Grievance Fortnight**” organised by Income Tax Department, Gujarat from June 1 to June 15, 2020 was really a praiseworthy initiative and it complements the department’s commitment to settle taxpayers’ grievances at the earliest. However, we humbly but urgently request you to have another Public Grievance Redressal fortnight from 15th July, 2020 due the below mentioned reasons:

1. Though the grievance redressal fortnight was effective from 1st June, majority of the businessmen and professionals got to know about the same only on 4th June when the details were published in newspaper, making the time period to submit the redressal even shorter. There are numerous pending tax issues and the taxpayers should be given more time to compile and submit their grievances. **By having another fortnight dedicated to “grievance redressal” and by announcing the same beforehand, taxpayers would be in a position to make the most of this wonderful opportunity to solve their pending tax issues.**

Durgesh V. Buch
President

Natubhai Patel
Sr. Vice President

Bhargav Thakkar
Vice President

Sanjeev Chhajer
Secretary

Dilip M. Padhya
Secretary (R)

Pathik S. Patwari
Treasurer

2. Further as the lockdown has been relaxed since 1st June, 2020 and most of us are getting used to the “new normal”, the strength of workforce at the department and also at the offices of taxpayers and their consultants is less and nowhere close to its full capacity. Taxpayers’ offices are working with 30-50% capacity and they expect their workforce to resume work physically by mid-July. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has identified “Micro containment zones” and is restricting the movement of people in these zones. Similar restrictions are also there in most other parts of Gujarat. Considering this, it would be better to have this fortnight again from 15th July, 2020 as most taxpayers would then be in a position to compile and submit grievances in time. COVID-19 has had a huge impact psychologically and it will take some time for people to leave behind the fear and anxiety caused due to this pandemic.

As this is a measure to give relief to taxpayers and address their long standing grievances, having another dedicated “redressal grievance fortnight” will be beneficial for the taxpayers as well as the department.

3. There are cases where taxpayers have received demand notices for period relating to A.Y. 2011-12 and even earlier years without proper communication from the Assessing Officer. The recovery / adjustment of demand notices were issued by CPC directly. In such cases, the taxpayers would apply for online intimation and once they receive the same, they can come to know about the veracity of demand raised. This evaluation requires time and proper checking of documents at the taxpayers end.

We also request your good self that Nodal officers should be appointed and the public grievance initiative should be under direct monitoring and strict supervision of Additional CITs.

We all are facing this unprecedented situation and we require your co-operation and patient hearing to our concerns. We would be very grateful if your goodself would take an early action in this regard and have a positive consideration of our requests. This will be very useful for the taxation fraternity and also for the trade and industry. In conclusion, we request that suitable orders for having another grievance redressal fortnight from 15th July, 2020 be issued at the earliest.

With warm regards,



Tanmay Mehta
Secretary General

Durgesh V. Buch
President

Natubhai Patel
Sr. Vice President

Bhargav Thakkar
Vice President

Sanjeev Chhajer
Secretary

Dilip M. Padhya
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