



TRANSFER PRICING

AN ANALYSIS AND NOTES+INCLUSION OF RTP AND MTP QUESTIONS

APPLICABLE FOR MAY-2016 EXAMS.

Computation of income from international transaction having regard to arm's length price.(SECTION 92)

92. (1) Any income arising from an international transaction shall be computed having regard to the arm's length price.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that the allowance for any expense or interest arising from an international transaction shall also be determined having regard to the arm's length price.

(2) Where in an international transaction or specified domestic transaction, two or more associated enterprises enter into a mutual agreement or arrangement for the allocation or apportionment of, or any contribution to, any cost or expense incurred or to be incurred in connection with a benefit, service or facility provided or to be provided to any one or more of such enterprises, the cost or expense allocated or apportioned to, or, as the case may be, contributed by, any such enterprise shall be determined having regard to the arm's length price of such benefit, service or facility, as the case may be.

(2A) Any allowance for an expenditure or interest or allocation of any cost or expense or any income in relation to the specified domestic transaction shall be computed having regard to the arm's length price.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not apply in a case where the computation of income under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2A) or the determination of the allowance for any expense or interest under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2A), or the determination of any cost or expense allocated or apportioned, or, as the case may be, contributed under sub-section (2) or sub-section (2A), has the effect of reducing the income chargeable to tax or increasing the loss, as the case may be, computed on the basis of entries made in the books of account in respect of the previous year in which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction was entered into.

Determination of income in the case of non-residents.(RULE-10)

R.10. In any case in which the Assessing Officer is of opinion that the actual amount of the income accruing or arising to any non-resident person whether directly or indirectly, through or from any business connection in India or through or from any property in India or through or from any asset or source of income in India or through or from any money lent at interest and brought into India in cash or in kind cannot be definitely ascertained, the amount of such income for the purposes of assessment to income-tax may be calculated :—

- (i) at such percentage of the turnover so accruing or arising as the Assessing Officer may consider to be reasonable, or
- (ii) on any amount which bears the same proportion to the total profits and gains of the business of such person (such profits and gains being computed in accordance with the provisions of the Act), as the receipts so accruing or arising bear to the total receipts of the business, or
- (iii) in such other manner as the Assessing Officer may deem suitable.

Meaning of associated enterprise.(SECTION 92A)

92A. (1) For the purposes of this section and sections 92, 92B, 92C, 92D, 92E and 92F, "associated enterprise", in relation to another enterprise, means an enterprise—

(a) which participates, directly or indirectly, or through one or more intermediaries, in the management or control or capital of the other enterprise; or

(b) in respect of which one or more persons who participate, directly or indirectly, or through one or more intermediaries, in its management or control or capital, are the same persons who participate, directly or indirectly, or through one or more intermediaries, in the management or control or capital of the other enterprise.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), two enterprises shall be deemed to be associated enterprises if, at any time during the previous year,—

(a) one enterprise holds, directly or indirectly, shares carrying not less than twenty-six per cent of the voting power in the other enterprise; or

(b) any person or enterprise holds, directly or indirectly, shares carrying not less than twenty-six per cent of the voting power in each of such enterprises; or

(c) a loan advanced by one enterprise to the other enterprise constitutes not less than 51% of the book value of the total assets of the other enterprise; or

(d) one enterprise guarantees not less than 10% of the total borrowings of the other enterprise; or

(e) more than half of the board of directors or members of the governing board, or one or more executive directors or executive members of the governing board of one enterprise, are appointed by the other enterprise; or

(f) more than half of the directors or members of the governing board, or one or more of the executive directors or members of the governing board, of each of the two enterprises are appointed by the same person or persons; or

(g) the manufacture or processing of goods or articles or business carried out by one enterprise is wholly dependent on the use of know-how, patents, copyrights, trade-marks, licences, franchises or any other business or commercial rights of similar nature, or any data, documentation, drawing or specification relating to any patent, invention, model, design, secret formula or process, of which the other enterprise is the owner or in respect of which the other enterprise has exclusive rights; or

(h) ninety per cent or more of the raw materials and consumables required for the manufacture or processing of goods or articles carried out by one enterprise, are supplied by the other enterprise, or by persons specified by the other enterprise, and the prices and other conditions relating to the supply are influenced by such other enterprise; or

(i) the goods or articles manufactured or processed by one enterprise, are sold to the other enterprise or to persons specified by the other enterprise, and the prices and other conditions relating thereto are influenced by such other enterprise; or

(j) where one enterprise is controlled by an individual, the other enterprise is also controlled by such individual or his relative or jointly by such individual and relative of such individual; or

(k) where one enterprise is controlled by a Hindu undivided family, the other enterprise is controlled by a member of such Hindu undivided family or by a relative of a member of such Hindu undivided family or jointly by such member and his relative; or

(l) where one enterprise is a firm, association of persons or body of individuals, the other enterprise holds not less than ten per cent interest in such firm, association of persons or body of individuals; or

(m) there exists between the two enterprises, any relationship of mutual interest, as may be prescribed.

RTP NOV-15:- Discuss whether transfer pricing provisions under the Income-tax Act, 1961 are attracted in respect of the following cases -

(i) Transfer of technical knowhow by Alpha Ltd., an Indian company, to Beta Inc., a French company, which guarantees 15% of the borrowings of Alpha Ltd. (OR) RTP N-13:- Transfer of process patents by Omega Ltd. to Theta Inc., an Australian company, which guarantees 20% of the borrowings of Omega Ltd.

(ii) Purchase of plant and machinery by Phi Ltd., an Indian company, from Rho Inc., a Swedish company. Phi Ltd. is the subsidiary of Rho Inc. (or) RTP N-13:- Sale of tools and equipment by Gamma Ltd., an Indian company, to Delta Inc., a Danish company. Gamma Ltd. is the subsidiary of Delta Inc.

(i) The scope of the term “intangible property” has been amplified to include, inter alia, technical knowhow, which is a technology related intangible asset. Transfer of intangible property falls within the scope of the term international transaction. Since Beta Inc. guarantees not less than 10% of the borrowings of Alpha Ltd. Beta Inc. and Alpha Ltd. are associated enterprises. Therefore, since transfer of technical knowhow by Alpha Ltd., an Indian company, to Beta Inc., a French company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

(ii) Purchase of tangible property falls within the scope of international transaction. Tangible property includes plant and machinery. Rho Inc. and Phi Ltd. are associated enterprises, since Rho Inc., being a holding company of Phi Ltd., fulfils the condition of holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in Phi Ltd. Therefore, purchase of plant and machinery by Phi Ltd., an Indian company, from Rho Inc., a Swedish company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

RTP M-14

(I) Sale of integrated circuit masks by Indus Ltd. to Amazon Inc., a US company, which guarantees 25% of the borrowings of Indus Ltd., an Indian company.

The scope of the term “intangible property” has been amplified to include, inter alia, integrated circuit masks and masters, which is a data processing intangible. Transfer of intangible property falls within the scope of the term “international transaction”. Since Amazon Inc. guarantees not less than 10% of the borrowings of Indus Ltd., Amazon Inc. and Indus Ltd. are associated enterprises. Therefore, since transfer of integrated circuit masks by Indus Ltd. to Amazon Inc. is an international transaction between associated enterprises, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.F

Meaning of expressions used in computation of arm's length price.(RULE-10A)

10A. For the purposes of this rule and rules 10AB to 10E,—

- (a) *"associated enterprise" shall,—*
 - (i) *have the same meaning as assigned to it in section 92A; and*
 - (ii) *in relation to a specified domestic transaction entered into by an assessee, include —*
 - (A) *the persons referred to in 40A(2)(b) in respect of a transaction referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of the said section;*
 - (B) *other units or undertakings or businesses of such assessee in respect of a transaction referred to in section 80A or, as the case may be, sub-section (8) of section 80-IA;*
 - (C) *any other person referred to in sub-section (10) of section 80-IA in respect of a transaction referred to therein;*
 - (D) *other units, undertakings, enterprises or business of such assessee, or other person referred to in sub-section (10) of section 80-IA, as the case may be, in respect of a transaction referred to in section 10AA or the transactions referred to in Chapter VI-A to which the provisions of sub-section (8) or, as the case may be, the provisions of sub-section (10) of section 80-IA are applicable;*
- (aa) *"enterprise" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (iii) of section 92F and shall, for the purposes of a specified domestic transaction, include a unit, or an enterprise, or an undertaking or a business of a person who undertakes such transaction;]*
- (ab) *"uncontrolled transaction" means a transaction between enterprises other than associated enterprises, whether resident or non-resident;*
- (b) *"property" includes goods, articles or things, and intangible property;*
- (c) *"services" include financial services;*
- (d) *"transaction" includes a number of closely linked transactions.*

Circular No – 2/2013 dated 26-03-2013

Sub: Circular on application of profit split method

It has been brought to the notice of CBDT that clarification is needed for selection of profit split method (PSM) as most appropriate method. The issue has been examined in CBDT. It is hereby clarified that while selecting PSM as the most appropriate method, the following points may be kept in mind:

1. Since there is no correlation between cost incurred on R&D activities and return on an intangible developed through R&D activities, the use of transfer pricing methods [like Transactional Net Margin

Method] that seek to estimate the value of intangible based on cost of intangible development (R&D cost) plus a return, is generally discouraged.

2. Rule 10B (1)(d) of Income Tax Rules 1962 (the Rules) provides that profit split method (PSM) may be applicable mainly in international transactions involving transfer of unique intangibles or in multiple international transactions which are so interrelated that they cannot be evaluated separately for the purpose of determining the arm's length price of any one transaction. The PSM determines appropriate return on intangibles on the basis of relative contributions made by each associated enterprise.

3. Selection and application of PSM will depend upon following factors as prescribed under Rule 10C(2) of the Rules:

- the nature and class of the international transaction;
- the class or classes of associated enterprises entering into the transaction and the functions performed by them taking into account assets employed or to be employed and risks assumed by such enterprise;
- the availability, coverage and reliability of data necessary for application of the method;
- the degree of comparability existing between the international transaction and the uncontrolled transaction and between the enterprise entering into such transactions;
- the extent to which reliable and accurate adjustments can be made to account for differences, if any, between the international transaction and the comparable uncontrolled transaction or between the enterprise entering into such transactions;
- the nature, extent and reliability of assumptions required to be made in application of a method

4. It is evident from the above that Rule 10C (2) of the Rules stipulates availability, coverage and reliability of data necessary for the application of the method as one of the several factors in selection of most appropriate method. Accordingly, in a case, where the Transfer Pricing Officer (TPO) is of view that PSM cannot be applied to determine the arm's length price of international transactions involving intangibles due to non-availability of information and reliable data required for application of the method, he must record reasons for non-applicability of PSM before considering TNMM or comparable uncontrolled price method (CUP) as most appropriate method depending upon facts and circumstances of the case.

5. Application of Profit Split Method requires information mainly about the taxpayer and associated enterprises. Section 92D of the income-tax Act, 1961 provides for maintenance of relevant information and documents by the taxpayer as prescribed under Rule 10D of the Rules. Therefore, there should be good and sufficient reason for non-availability of such information with the taxpayer.

6. Depending upon facts and circumstances of the case, TPO may consider TNMM or CUP method as appropriate method by selecting comparables engaged in development of intangibles in same line of business and make upward adjustments taking into account transfer of intangibles without additional remuneration, location savings and location specific advantage

Circular No. 03 /2013 dated 26-03-2013**Subject: Circular on conditions relevant to identify development centres engaged in contract R&D services with insignificant risk**

It has been brought to the notice of CBDT that there is divergence of views amongst the field officers and taxpayers regarding the functional profile of development centres engaged in contract R&D services for the purposes of transfer pricing audit. Moreover, while at times taxpayers have been insisting that they are contract R&D service providers with insignificant risk, the TPOs are treating them as full or significant risk-bearing entities and making transfer pricing adjustments accordingly. The issue has been examined in CBDT. It is hereby clarified that a development centre in India may be treated as a contract R&D service provider with insignificant risk if the following conditions are cumulatively complied with:

1. Foreign principal performs most of the economically significant functions involved in research or product development cycle whereas Indian development centre would largely be involved in economically insignificant functions;
2. The principal provides funds/ capital and other economically significant assets including intangibles for research or product development and Indian development centre would not use any other economically significant assets including intangibles in research or product development;
3. Indian development centre works under direct supervision of foreign principal who not only has capability to control or supervise but also actually controls or supervises research or product development through its strategic decisions to perform core functions as well as monitor activities on regular basis;
4. Indian development centre does not assume or has no economically significant realized risks. If a contract shows the principal to be controlling the risk but conduct shows that Indian development centre is doing so, then the contractual terms are not the final determinant of actual activities. In the case of foreign principal being located in a country/ territory widely perceived as a low or no tax jurisdiction, it will be presumed that the foreign principal is not controlling the risk. However, the Indian development centre may rebut this presumption to the satisfaction of the revenue authorities; and
5. Indian development centre has no ownership right (legal or economic) on outcome of research which vests with foreign principal, and that it shall be evident from conduct of the parties.

The satisfaction of all the above mentioned conditions should be borne out by the conduct of the parties and not merely by the contractual terms'.

Meaning of international transaction. (SECTION 92B)

92B. (1) For the purposes of this section and sections 92, 92C, 92D and 92E, "international transaction" means a transaction between two or more associated enterprises, either or both of whom are non-residents, in the nature of purchase, sale or lease of tangible or intangible property, or provision of services, or lending or borrowing money, or any other transaction having a bearing on the profits, income, losses or assets of such enterprises, and shall include a mutual agreement or

arrangement between two or more associated enterprises for the allocation or apportionment of, or any contribution to, any cost or expense incurred or to be incurred in connection with a benefit, service or facility provided or to be provided to any one or more of such enterprises.

(2) A transaction entered into by an enterprise with a person other than an associated enterprise shall, for the purposes of sub-section (1), be *deemed to be an international transaction* entered into between two associated enterprises, if there exists a prior agreement in relation to the relevant transaction between such other person and the associated enterprise, or the terms of the relevant transaction are determined in substance between such other person and the associated enterprise *where the enterprise or the associated enterprise or both of them are non-residents irrespective of whether such other person is a non-resident or not.*

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that—

(i) the expression "international transaction" shall include—

(a) the purchase, sale, transfer, lease or use of tangible property including building, transportation vehicle, machinery, equipment, tools, plant, furniture, commodity or any other article, product or thing;

(b) the purchase, sale, transfer, lease or use of intangible property, including the transfer of ownership or the provision of use of rights regarding land use, copyrights, patents, trademarks, licences, franchises, customer list, marketing channel, brand, commercial secret, know-how, industrial property right, exterior design or practical and new design or any other business or commercial rights of similar nature;

(c) capital financing, including any type of long-term or short-term borrowing, lending or guarantee, purchase or sale of marketable securities or any type of advance, payments or deferred payment or receivable or any other debt arising during the course of business;

(d) provision of services, including provision of market research, market development, marketing management, administration, technical service, repairs, design, consultation, agency, scientific research, legal or accounting service;

(e) a transaction of business restructuring or reorganisation, entered into by an enterprise with an associated enterprise, irrespective of the fact that it has bearing on the profit, income, losses or assets of such enterprises at the time of the transaction or at any future date;

(ii) the expression "intangible property" shall include—

(a) marketing related intangible assets, such as, trademarks, trade names, brand names, logos;

(b) technology related intangible assets, such as, process patents, patent applications, technical documentation such as laboratory notebooks, technical know-how;

(c) artistic related intangible assets, such as, literary works and copyrights, musical compositions, copyrights, maps, engravings;

(d) data processing related intangible assets, such as, proprietary computer software, software copyrights, automated databases, and integrated circuit masks and masters;

(e) engineering related intangible assets, such as, industrial design, product patents, trade secrets, engineering drawing and schematics, blueprints, proprietary documentation;

(f) customer related intangible assets, such as, customer lists, customer contracts, customer relationship, open purchase orders;

(g) contract related intangible assets, such as, favourable supplier, contracts, licence agreements, franchise agreements, non-compete agreements;

(h) human capital related intangible assets, such as, trained and organised work force, employment agreements, union contracts;

(i) location related intangible assets, such as, leasehold interest, mineral exploitation rights, easements, air rights, water rights;

(j) goodwill related intangible assets, such as, institutional goodwill, professional practice goodwill, personal goodwill of professional, celebrity goodwill, general business going concern value;

(k) methods, programmes, systems, procedures, campaigns, surveys, studies, forecasts, estimates, customer lists, or technical data;

(l) any other similar item that derives its value from its intellectual content rather than its physical attributes.

RTP N-15:- Discuss whether transfer pricing provisions under the Income-tax Act, 1961 are attracted in respect of the following case

(I) Scientific research services provided by Sigma Inc., a German company to Theta Ltd., an Indian company. Sigma Inc. is a specified foreign company as defined in section 115BBD, in relation to Theta Ltd.

(i) The Explanation to section 92B amplifies the scope of the term international transaction. According to the said Explanation, international transaction includes, inter alia, provision of scientific research services. Sigma Inc. is a specified foreign company in relation to Theta Ltd. Therefore, the condition of Theta Ltd. holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in Sigma Inc. is satisfied. Hence, Sigma Inc. and Theta Ltd. are associated enterprises. Since the provision of scientific research services by Sigma Inc. to Theta Ltd. is an international transaction between associated enterprises, transfer pricing provisions are attracted in this case.

RTP M-15+MTP SEP-2015

XYZ Ltd., an Indian company, has entered into an agreement for sale of product M to Mr.Ganesh, an unrelated party, on 15/3/2015. Mr.Ganesh had entered into an agreement on 10/3/2015 (for sale of product M) with ABC Inc., a non-resident entity, which is a specified foreign company in relation to XYZ Ltd. Would the transaction between XYZ Ltd. and Mr.Ganesh be deemed as an international transaction entered into between two associated enterprises, if Mr. Ganesh is a resident and ordinarily resident for the P.Y.2014-15?

Section 92B(2) extends the scope of the definition of international transaction given in section 92B(1) by deeming a transaction entered into with a person other than an associated enterprise as a transaction with an associated enterprise, if the following conditions are satisfied:

- there exists a prior agreement in relation to the relevant transaction between the other person and the associated enterprise or,
- where the terms of the relevant transaction are determined in substance between such other person and the associated enterprise; and
- either the enterprise or the associated enterprise or both of them are non- residents.

In such a case, a transaction entered into between the enterprise and the other person shall be deemed to be an international transaction entered into between two associated enterprises, whether or not such other person is a non-resident.

In this case, the agreement between the Indian company, XYZ Ltd. and unrelated party, Mr. Ganesh for sale of product M was entered into on 15/3/2015. Prior to that date (i.e., on 10/3/2015), Mr. Ganesh has entered into an agreement, for sale of product M, with ABC Inc., a non-resident entity. ABC Inc. is deemed to be an associated enterprise of XYZ Ltd. since it is a specified foreign company in relation to XYZ Ltd., which implies that XYZ Ltd. holds 26% or more in the nominal value of the equity share capital of ABC Inc.

In this case, there exists a prior agreement in relation to the transaction for sale of product M between the unrelated party, Mr. Ganesh and the associated enterprise, ABC Inc., which is a non-resident entity. Hence, the transaction entered into between XYZ Ltd., an Indian company and Mr. Ganesh for sale of product M is deemed to be an international transaction entered into between two associated enterprises, irrespective of the residential status of Mr. Ganesh.

RTP M-14

Discuss whether transfer pricing provisions under the Income-tax Act, 1961 are attracted in respect of the following transactions

(I) Provision of scientific research services by Nile Inc., a Kenyan company, to its Indian subsidiary, Brahmaputra Ltd.

The scope of the term “international transaction” has been amplified by the Finance Act, 2012 by insertion of Explanation to section 92B. According to the said Explanation, international transaction includes, inter alia, provision of scientific research services. Nile Inc. and Brahmaputra Ltd. are deemed to be associated enterprises, since Nile Inc., being a holding company of Brahmaputra Ltd., fulfils the condition of holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in Brahmaputra Ltd. Since the provision of scientific research services by Nile Inc., a Kenyan company to Brahmaputra Ltd., an Indian company, is an “international transaction” between associated enterprises, transfer pricing provisions are attracted in this case.

(II) Lease of equipment by Kaveri Ltd., an Indian company, from Thames Inc., a British company. Thames Inc. is a “specified foreign company” as defined in section 115BBD in relation to Kaveri Ltd.

Lease of tangible property falls within the scope of “international transaction”. Tangible property includes equipment. Thames Inc. is a specified foreign company in relation to Kaveri Ltd. Therefore, the condition of Kaveri Ltd. holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in Thames Inc is satisfied. Hence, Thames Inc. and Kaveri Ltd. are associated enterprises. Therefore, lease of equipment by Kaveri Ltd., an Indian company, from Thames Inc., a British company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

RTP N-13

Legal services provided by Alpha Inc., USA to Beta Ltd., an Indian company. Alpha Inc. is a “specified foreign company” as defined in section 115BBD, in relation to Beta Ltd.

The scope of the term “international transaction” has been amplified by the Finance Act, 2012 by insertion of Explanation to section 92B. According to the said Explanation, international transaction includes, inter alia, provision of legal services. Alpha Inc. is a specified foreign company in relation to Beta Ltd. Therefore, the condition of Beta Ltd. holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in Alpha Inc is satisfied. Hence, Alpha Inc. and Beta Ltd. are associated enterprises. Since the provision of legal services by Alpha Inc. to Beta Ltd. is an “international transaction” between associated enterprises, transfer pricing provisions are attracted in this case.

Meaning of specified domestic transaction.(SECTION 92BA)

92BA. For the purposes of this section and sections 92, 92C, 92D and 92E, "specified domestic transaction" in case of an assessee means any of the following transactions, not being an international transaction, namely:—

- (i) any expenditure in respect of which payment has been made or is to be made to a person referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 40A;
- (ii) any transaction referred to in section 80A;
- (iii) any transfer of goods or services referred to in sub-section (8) of section 80-IA;
- (iv) any business transacted between the assessee and other person as referred to in sub-section (10) of section 80-IA;
- (v) any transaction, referred to in any other section under Chapter VI-A or section 10AA, to which provisions of sub-section (8) or sub-section (10) of section 80-IA are applicable; or
- (vi) any other transaction as may be prescribed, and where the aggregate of such transactions entered into by the assessee in the previous year exceeds a sum of 5 crore rupees.**(w.e.f.1-4-2016 it is 20 Crore).**

RTP N-15+N-13:- Discuss whether transfer pricing provisions under the Income-tax Act, 1961 are attracted in respect of the following cases

(I) Ms. Nidhi, a resident Indian, is a director of Delta Ltd, an Indian company. Delta Ltd. pays salary of Rs.45 lakhs per annum to Yashasvi, who is Ms. Nidhi's daughter.

(II) Alpha Ltd., an Indian company, has two units Sun & Moon. Sun, which commenced business three years back, is engaged in the development of a highway project, for which purpose an agreement has been entered into with the Central Government. Moon is carrying on the business of trading in cement. Moon transfers cement of the value of Rs.65 lakhs to Sun for Rs.45 lakhs.

(i) This transaction falls within the meaning of specified domestic transaction under section 92BA, since the salary payment has been made to a related person referred to in section 40A(2)(b) i.e., relative (i.e., daughter) of Ms. Nidhi, who is a director of Delta Ltd. However, such a transaction would be treated as a specified domestic transaction to attract transfer pricing provisions only if the aggregate of such transactions as specified in section 92BA during the year by Delta Ltd. Exceeds a sum of Rs.20 crore. **(up to 31.03.2016 it is Rs.5 Crore).**

(ii) Unit Sun is eligible for deduction@100% of the profits derived from its eligible business (i.e., the business of developing an infrastructure facility, namely, a highway project in this case) under section 80-IA. However, Unit Moon is not engaged in any eligible business. Since Unit Moon has transferred cement to Unit Sun at a price lower than the fair market value, it is an inter -Unit transfer of goods between eligible business and other business, where the consideration for transfer does not correspond with the market value of goods. Therefore, this transaction would fall within the meaning of specified domestic transaction to attract transfer pricing provisions, if the aggregate value of transactions specified in section 92BA during the year exceeds a sum of Rs.20 crore. **(up to 31.03.2016 it is Rs.5 Crore).**

RTP M-14

(i) Mr. Krishna, a resident Indian, holds 30% equity share capital in Yamuna Ltd, a domestic company. Yamuna Ltd. hires vehicles owned by Mr. Krishna's daughter and pays rent of Rs. 3 lakh.

(ii) Ganga Ltd., a domestic company, has two units Chambal & Damodar. The Chambal unit, which commenced business two years back, is engaged in the business of developing an irrigation project. The Damodar unit is carrying on the business of trading in water pumps. The Damodar unit transfers water pumps to the value of Rs.5 lakh to the Chambal unit for Rs.3 lakh.

(i) This transaction falls within the meaning of "specified domestic transaction" under section 92BA, since the rental payment has been made to a related person referred to in section 40A(2)(b) i.e., relative (i.e., daughter) of Mr. Krishna, who has substantial interest in the business of Yamuna Ltd., since he is the beneficial owner of shares carrying not less than 20% voting power. However, such a transaction would be treated as a "specified domestic transaction" to attract transfer pricing provisions only if the aggregate of such transactions as specified in section 92BA during the year by Yamuna Ltd. exceeds a sum of Rs.20 crore. **(up to 31.03.2016 it is Rs.5 Crore).**

(ii) The Chambal Unit is eligible for deduction@100% of the profits derived from its eligible business (i.e., the business of developing an infrastructure facility, being an irrigation project) under section 80-IA. However, the Damodar Unit is not engaged in any "eligible business". Since the Damodar Unit has transferred water pumps to the Chambal Unit at a price lower than the fair market value, it is an inter-Unit transfer of goods between eligible business and other business, where the consideration for transfer does not correspond with the market value of goods. Therefore, this transaction would fall within the meaning of "specified domestic transaction" to attract transfer pricing provisions, if the aggregate value of transactions specified in section 92BA during the year exceed Rs.20 crore. **(up to 31.03.2016 it is Rs.5 Crore).**

Computation of arm's length price.(SECTION 92C)

92C. (1) The arm's length price in relation to an international transaction or specified domestic transaction shall be determined by any of the following methods, being the most appropriate method, having regard to the nature of transaction or class of transaction or class of associated persons or functions performed by such persons or such other relevant factors as the Board may prescribe **(R.10B)**, namely :—

- (a) comparable uncontrolled price method;
- (b) resale price method;
- (c) cost plus method;
- (d) profit split method;
- (e) transactional net margin method;
- (f) such other method as may be prescribed **(R.10AB+10B)** by the Board.

(2) The most appropriate method referred to in sub-section (1) shall be applied, for determination of arm's length price, in the manner as may be prescribed **(R.10C)** :

Provided that where more than one price is determined by the most appropriate method, the arm's length price shall be taken to be the arithmetical mean of such prices:

Provided further that if the variation between the arm's length price so determined and price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken does not exceed such percentage not exceeding 3 per cent of the latter, as may be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette in this behalf, the price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken shall be deemed to be the arm's length price :

Provided also that where more than one price is determined by the most appropriate method, the arm's length price in relation to an international transaction or specified domestic transaction undertaken on or after the 1st day of April, 2014, shall be computed in such manner as may be prescribed and accordingly the **first and second proviso shall not apply**.

Explanation.—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby clarified that the provisions of the second proviso shall also be applicable to all assessment or reassessment proceedings pending before an Assessing Officer as on the 1st day of October, 2009.

(2A) Where the first proviso to sub-section (2) as it stood before its amendment by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2009, is applicable in respect of an international transaction for an assessment year and the variation between the arithmetical mean referred to in the said proviso and the price at which such transaction has actually been undertaken exceeds 5 per cent of the arithmetical mean, then, the assessee shall not be entitled to exercise the option as referred to in the said proviso.

(2B) Nothing contained in sub-section (2A) shall empower the Assessing Officer either to assess or reassess under section 147 or pass an order enhancing the assessment or reducing a refund already made or otherwise increasing the liability of the assessee under section 154 for any assessment year the proceedings of which have been completed before the 1-10- 2009.

(3) Where during the course of any proceeding for the assessment of income, the Assessing Officer is, on the basis of material or information or document in his possession, of the opinion that—

(a) the price charged or paid in an international transaction or specified domestic transaction has not been determined in accordance with sub-sections (1) and (2); or

(b) any information and document relating to an international transaction or specified domestic transaction have not been kept and maintained by the assessee in accordance with the provisions contained in sub-section (1) of section 92D and the rules made in this behalf; or

(c) the information or data used in computation of the arm's length price is not reliable or correct; or

(d) the assessee has failed to furnish, within the specified time, any information or document which he was required to furnish by a notice issued under sub-section (3) of section 92D, the Assessing Officer may proceed to determine the arm's length price in relation to the said international transaction or specified domestic transaction in accordance with sub-sections (1) and (2), on the basis of such material or information or document available with him:

Provided that an opportunity shall be given by the Assessing Officer by serving a notice calling upon the assessee to show cause, on a date and time to be specified in the notice, why the arm's length price should not be so determined on the basis of material or information or document in the possession of the Assessing Officer.

(4) Where an arm's length price is determined by the Assessing Officer under sub-section (3), the Assessing Officer may compute the total income of the assessee having regard to the arm's length price so determined :

Provided that no deduction under section 10A or section 10AA or section 10B or under Chapter VI-A shall be allowed in respect of the amount of income by which the total income of the assessee is enhanced after computation of income under this sub-section :

Provided further that where the total income of an associated enterprise is computed under this sub-section on determination of the arm's length price paid to another associated enterprise from which tax has been deducted or was deductible under the provisions of Chapter XVIIIB, the income of the other associated enterprise shall not be recomputed by reason of such determination of arm's length price in the case of the first mentioned enterprise.

Computation of Arm's length price - Notified tolerable limit for determination of ALP – Notification No. 45/2014, dated 23-9-2014

In exercise of the powers conferred by the **second proviso** to sub-section (2) of section 92C of the Incometax Act, 1961, the Central Government hereby notifies that where the variation between the arm's length price determined under section 92C and the price of which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken does not exceed 1% of the latter in respect of **wholesale trading** and 3% of the latter. In all other cases, the price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken shall be deemed to be the arm's length price for assessment year 2014-15.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this notification, “wholesale trading” means an international transaction or specified domestic transaction of trading in goods, which fulfils the following conditions, namely :—

- (i) purchase cost of finished goods is 80 percent or more of the total cost pertaining to such trading activities; and
- (ii) average monthly closing inventory of such goods is 10 percent or less of sales pertaining to such trading activities.

RTP N-10(modified)

Examine the price which would be deemed as the arm's length price in the following cases –

(1) Case I

Price at which the international transaction was effected – Rs.10 lakh Arm's length price determined by applying the arithmetical mean – Rs.11 lakh

(2) Case II

Price at which the international transaction was effected – Rs.40 lakh Arm's length price determined by applying the arithmetical mean – Rs.41 lakh

Solution :- Section 92C(2) has been amended to provide that where more than one price is determined by the most appropriate method, the arm's length price shall be taken to be the arithmetical mean of such price. However, if the variation between the transfer price and arithmetical mean, so determined, is within 3% of the transfer price, then the transfer price shall be deemed to be the arm's length price and no adjustment is required to be made.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Case	Transfer Price(TP)	ALP determined by	TP + 3% OF TP	ALP for the Transfer pricing

		applying the arithmetical mean		Adjustment [If (3) > (4), then ALP = (3); If (4) > (3), then ALP = (2)]
I	Rs.10 Lakh	Rs.11 Lakh	Rs.10.3Lakh	Rs.11 Lakh
II	Rs.40 Lakh	Rs.41 lakh	Rs.41.2Lakh	Rs.40 lakh

Other method of determination of arm's length price. (RULE – 10AB)

R.10AB. *For the purposes of clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 92C, the other method for determination of the arm's length price in relation to an international transaction or a specified domestic transaction shall be any method which takes into account the price which has been charged or paid, or would have been charged or paid, for the same or similar uncontrolled transaction, with or between non-associated enterprises, under similar circumstances, considering all the relevant facts.*

Determination of arm's length price under section 92C. (RULE – 10B)

R.10B . (1) For the purposes of sub-section (2) of section 92C, the arm's length price in relation to an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* shall be determined by any of the following methods, being the most appropriate method, in the following manner, namely :—

(a) **comparable uncontrolled price method**, by which,—

- (i) the price charged or paid for property transferred or services provided in a comparable uncontrolled transaction, or a number of such transactions, is identified;
- (ii) such price is adjusted to account for differences, if any, between the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* and the comparable uncontrolled transactions or between the enterprises entering into such transactions, which could materially affect the price in the open market;
- (iii) the adjusted price arrived at under sub-clause (ii) is taken to be an arm's length price in respect of the property transferred or services provided in the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction*;

(b) **resale price method**, by which,—

- (i) the price at which property purchased or services obtained by the enterprise from an associated enterprise is resold or are provided to an unrelated enterprise, is identified;
- (ii) such resale price is reduced by the amount of a normal gross profit margin accruing to the enterprise or to an unrelated enterprise from the purchase and resale of the same or similar property or from obtaining and providing the same or similar services, in a comparable uncontrolled transaction, or a number of such

transactions;

- (iii) the price so arrived at is further reduced by the expenses incurred by the enterprise in connection with the purchase of property or obtaining of services;
- (iv) the price so arrived at is adjusted to take into account the functional and other differences, including differences in accounting practices, if any, between the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* and the comparable uncontrolled transactions, or between the enterprises entering into such transactions, which could materially affect the amount of gross profit margin in the open market;
- (v) the adjusted price arrived at under sub-clause (iv) is taken to be an arm's length price in respect of the purchase of the property or obtaining of the services by the enterprise from the associated enterprise;

(c) **cost plus method**, by which,—

- (i) the direct and indirect costs of production incurred by the enterprise in respect of property transferred or services provided to an associated enterprise, are determined;
- (ii) the amount of a normal gross profit mark-up to such costs (computed according to the same accounting norms) arising from the transfer or provision of the same or similar property or services by the enterprise, or by an unrelated enterprise, in a comparable uncontrolled transaction, or a number of such transactions, is determined;
- (iii) the normal gross profit mark-up referred to in sub-clause (ii) is adjusted to take into account the functional and other differences, if any, between the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* and the comparable uncontrolled transactions, or between the enterprises entering into such transactions, which could materially affect such profit mark-up in the open market;
- (iv) the costs referred to in sub-clause (i) are increased by the adjusted profit mark-up arrived at under sub-clause (iii);
- (v) the sum so arrived at is taken to be an arm's length price in relation to the supply of the property or provision of services by the enterprise;

(d) **profit split method**, which may be applicable mainly in international transactions *or specified domestic transactions* involving transfer of unique intangibles or in multiple international transactions *or specified domestic transactions* which are so interrelated that they cannot be evaluated separately for the purpose of determining the arm's length price of any one transaction, by which—

- (i) the combined net profit of the associated enterprises arising from the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* in which they are engaged, is determined;

- (ii) the relative contribution made by each of the associated enterprises to the earning of such combined net profit, is then evaluated on the basis of the functions performed, assets employed or to be employed and risks assumed by each enterprise and on the basis of reliable external market data which indicates how such contribution would be evaluated by unrelated enterprises performing comparable functions in similar circumstances;
- (iii) the combined net profit is then split amongst the enterprises in proportion to their relative contributions, as evaluated under sub-clause (ii);
- (iv) the profit thus apportioned to the assessee is taken into account to arrive at an arm's length price in relation to the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* :

Provided that the combined net profit referred to in sub-clause (i) may, in the first instance, be partially allocated to each enterprise so as to provide it with a basic return appropriate for the type of international transaction *or specified domestic transaction* in which it is engaged, with reference to market returns achieved for similar types of transactions by independent enterprises, and thereafter, the residual net profit remaining after such allocation may be split amongst the enterprises in proportion to their relative contribution in the manner specified under sub-clauses (ii) and (iii), and in such a case the aggregate of the net profit allocated to the enterprise in the first instance together with the residual net profit apportioned to that enterprise on the basis of its relative contribution shall be taken to be the net profit arising to that enterprise from the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* ;

(e) **transactional net margin method**, by which,—

- (i) the net profit margin realised by the enterprise from an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* entered into with an associated enterprise is computed in relation to costs incurred or sales effected or assets employed or to be employed by the enterprise or having regard to any other relevant base;
- (ii) the net profit margin realised by the enterprise or by an unrelated enterprise from a comparable uncontrolled transaction or a number of such transactions is computed having regard to the same base;
- (iii) the net profit margin referred to in sub-clause (ii) arising in comparable uncontrolled transactions is adjusted to take into account the differences, if any, between the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* and the comparable uncontrolled transactions, or between the enterprises entering into such transactions, which could materially affect the amount of net profit margin in the open market;
- (iv) the net profit margin realised by the enterprise and referred to in sub-clause (i) is established to be the same as the net profit margin referred to in sub-clause (iii);
- (v) the net profit margin thus established is then taken into account to arrive at an arm's length price in relation to the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction*;

(f) *any other method as provided in rule 10AB.*

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the comparability of an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* with an uncontrolled transaction shall be judged with reference to the following, namely:—

- (a) the specific characteristics of the property transferred or services provided in either transaction;
- (b) the functions performed, taking into account assets employed or to be employed and the risks assumed, by the respective parties to the transactions;
- (c) the contractual terms (whether or not such terms are formal or in writing) of the transactions which lay down explicitly or implicitly how the responsibilities, risks and benefits are to be divided between the respective parties to the transactions;
- (d) conditions prevailing in the markets in which the respective parties to the transactions operate, including the geographical location and size of the markets, the laws and Government orders in force, costs of labour and capital in the markets, overall economic development and level of competition and whether the markets are wholesale or retail.

(3) An uncontrolled transaction shall be comparable to an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* if—

- (i) none of the differences, if any, between the transactions being compared, or between the enterprises entering into such transactions are likely to materially affect the price or cost charged or paid in, or the profit arising from, such transactions in the open market; or
- (ii) Reasonably accurate adjustments can be made to eliminate the material effects of such differences.

(4) The data to be used in analysing the comparability of an uncontrolled transaction with an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* shall be the data relating to the financial year (*hereafter in this rule and in rule 10CA referred to as the 'current year'*) in which the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* has been entered into:

Provided that data relating to a period not being more than two years prior to *the current year* may also be considered if such data reveals facts which could have an influence on the determination of transfer prices in relation to the transactions being compared:

Provided further that the first proviso shall not apply while analysing the comparability of an uncontrolled transaction with an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction*, entered into on or after the 1-04-2014.

(5) *In a case where the most appropriate method for determination of the arm's length price of an international transaction or a specified domestic transaction, entered into on or after the 1st day of April, 2014, is the method specified in clause (b), clause (c) or clause (e) of sub-section (1) of section 92C, then, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (4), the data to be used for analysing the comparability of an uncontrolled transaction with an international transaction or a specified domestic transaction shall be,—*

- (i) *the data relating to the current year; or*

- (ii) *the data relating to the financial year immediately preceding the current, if the data relating to the current year is not available at the time of furnishing the return of income by the assessee, for the assessment year relevant to the current year:*

Provided that where the data relating to the current year is subsequently available at the time of determination of arm's length price of an international transaction or a specified domestic transaction during the course of any assessment proceeding for the assessment year relevant to the current year, then, such data shall be used for such determination irrespective of the fact that the data was not available at the time of furnishing the return of income of the relevant assessment year.

Most appropriate method. (RULE-10C)

10C. (1) For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 92C, the most appropriate method shall be the method which is best suited to the facts and circumstances of each particular international transaction *or specified domestic transaction*, and which provides the most reliable measure of an arm's length price in relation to the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction*, *as the case may be*.

(2) In selecting the most appropriate method as specified in sub-rule (1), the following factors shall be taken into account, namely:—**RTP MAY 2011 (In the context of transfer pricing provisions, what are the factors to be considered while selecting the most appropriate method?)**

- (a) *the nature and class of the international or the specified domestic transaction;*
- (b) *the class or classes of associated enterprises entering into the transaction and the functions performed by them taking into account assets employed or to be employed and risks assumed by such enterprises;*
- (c) *the availability, coverage and reliability of data necessary for application of the method;*
- (d) *the degree of comparability existing between the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction and the uncontrolled transaction and between the enterprises entering into such transactions;*
- (e) *the extent to which reliable and accurate adjustments can be made to account for differences, if any, between the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction and the comparable uncontrolled transaction or between the enterprises entering into such transactions;*
- (f) *The nature, extent and reliability of assumptions required to be made in application of a method.*

Computation of arm's length price in certain cases.(RULE-10CA)

10CA. (1) *Where in respect of an international transaction or a specified domestic transaction, the application of the most appropriate method referred to in sub-section (1) of section 92C results in determination of more than one price, then the arm's length price in respect of such international transaction or specified domestic transaction shall be computed in accordance with the provisions of this rule.*

(2) *A dataset shall be constructed by placing the prices referred to in sub-rule (1) in an ascending order and the arm's length price shall be determined on the basis of the dataset so constructed:*

Provided that in a case referred to in clause (i) of sub-rule (5) of rule 10B, where the comparable uncontrolled transaction has been identified on the basis of data relating to the current year and the

enterprise undertaking the said uncontrolled transaction, [not being the enterprise undertaking the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction referred to in sub-rule (1)], has in either or both of the two financial years immediately preceding the current year undertaken the same or similar comparable uncontrolled transaction then,—

- (i) the most appropriate method used to determine the price of the comparable uncontrolled transaction or transactions undertaken in the aforesaid period and the price in respect of such uncontrolled transactions shall be determined; and*
- (ii) the weighted average of the prices, computed in accordance with the manner provided in sub-rule (3), of the comparable uncontrolled transactions undertaken in the current year and in the aforesaid period preceding it shall be included in the dataset instead of the price referred to in sub-rule (1):*

Provided further that in a case referred to in clause (ii) of sub-rule (5) of rule 10B, where the comparable uncontrolled transaction has been identified on the basis of the data relating to the financial year immediately preceding the current year and the enterprise undertaking the said uncontrolled transaction, [not being the enterprise undertaking the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction referred to in sub-rule (1)], has in the financial year immediately preceding the said financial year undertaken the same or similar comparable uncontrolled transaction then,—

- (i) the price in respect of such uncontrolled transaction shall be determined by applying the most appropriate method in a similar manner as it was applied to determine the price of the comparable uncontrolled transaction undertaken in the financial year immediately preceding the current year; and*
- (ii) the weighted average of the prices, computed in accordance with the manner provided in sub-rule (3), of the comparable uncontrolled transactions undertaken in the aforesaid period of two years shall be included in the dataset instead of the price referred to in sub-rule (1) :*

Provided also that where the use of data relating to the current year in terms of the proviso to sub-rule (5) of rule 10B establishes that,—

- (i) the enterprise has not undertaken same or similar uncontrolled transaction during the current year; or*
- (ii) the uncontrolled transaction undertaken by an enterprise in the current year is not a comparable uncontrolled transaction,*

then, irrespective of the fact that such an enterprise had undertaken comparable uncontrolled transaction in the financial year immediately preceding the current year or the financial year immediately preceding such financial year, the price of comparable uncontrolled transaction or the weighted average of the prices of the uncontrolled transactions, as the case may be, undertaken by such enterprise shall not be included in the dataset.

(3) Where an enterprise has undertaken comparable uncontrolled transactions in more than one financial year, then for the purposes of sub-rule (2) the weighted average of the prices of such transactions shall be computed in the following manner, namely:—

- (i) where the prices have been determined using the method referred to in clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 10B, the weighted average of the prices shall be computed with weights being assigned to the quantum of sales which has been considered for arriving at the respective prices;
- (ii) where the prices have been determined using the method referred to in clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 10B, the weighted average of the prices shall be computed with weights being assigned to the quantum of costs which has been considered for arriving at the respective prices;
- (iii) where the prices have been determined using the method referred to in clause (e) of sub-rule (1) of rule 10B, the weighted average of the prices shall be computed with weights being assigned to the quantum of costs incurred or sales effected or assets employed or to be employed, or as the case may be, any other base which has been considered for arriving at the respective prices.

(4) Where the most appropriate method applied is a method other than the method referred to in clause (d) or clause (f) of sub-section (1) of section 92C and the dataset constructed in accordance with sub-rule (2) consists of six or more entries, an arm's length range beginning from the thirty-fifth percentile of the dataset and ending on the sixty-fifth percentile of the dataset shall be constructed and the arm's length price shall be computed in accordance with sub-rule (5) and sub-rule (6).

(5) If the price at which the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken is within the range referred to in sub-rule (4), then, the price at which such international transaction or the specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken shall be deemed to be the arm's length price.

(6) If the price at which the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken is outside the arm's length range referred to in sub-rule (4), the arm's length price shall be taken to be the median of the dataset.

(7) In a case where the provisions of sub-rule (4) are not applicable, the arm's length price shall be the arithmetical mean of all the values included in the dataset:

Provided that, if the variation between the arm's length price so determined and price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken does not exceed such percentage not exceeding three per cent of the latter, as may be notified by the Central Government in the Official Gazette in this behalf, the price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken shall be deemed to be the arm's length price.

(8) For the purposes of this rule, —

- (a) "the thirty-fifth percentile" of a dataset, having values arranged in an ascending order, shall be the lowest value in the dataset such that at least thirty five per cent of the values included in the dataset are equal to or less than such value:

Provided that, if the number of values that are equal to or less than the aforesaid value is a whole number, then the thirty-fifth percentile shall be the arithmetic mean of such value and the value immediately succeeding it in the dataset;

- (b) "the sixty-fifth percentile" of a dataset, having values arranged in an ascending order, shall be the lowest value in the dataset such that at least sixty five per cent of the values

included in the dataset are equal to or less than such value:

Provided that, if the number of values that are equal to or less than the aforesaid value is a whole number, then the sixty-fifth percentile shall be the arithmetic mean of such value and the value immediately succeeding it in the dataset;

- (c) "the median" of the dataset, having values arranged in an ascending order, shall be the lowest value in the dataset such that at least fifty per cent of the values included in the dataset are equal to or less than such value:

Provided that, if the number of values that are equal to or less than the aforesaid value is a whole number, then the median shall be the arithmetic mean of such value and the value immediately succeeding it in the dataset.

Illustration 1.—The data for the current year of the comparable uncontrolled transactions or the entities undertaking such transactions is available at the time of furnishing return of income by the assessee and based on the same, seven enterprises have been identified to have undertaken the comparable uncontrolled transaction in the current year. All the identified comparable enterprises have also undertaken comparable uncontrolled transactions in a period of two years preceding the current year. The Profit level Indicator (PLI) used in applying the most appropriate method is operating profit as compared to operating cost (OP/OC). The weighted average shall be based upon the weight of OC as computed below :

Sl. No.	Name	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 [Current Year]	Aggregation of OC and OP	Weighted Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	OC = 100 OP = 12	OC = 150 OP = 10	OC = 225 OP = 35	Total OC = 475 Total OP = 57	OP/OC = 12%
2	B	OC = 80 OP = 10	OC = 125 OP = 5	OC = 100 OP = 10	Total OC = 305 Total OP = 25	OP/OC = 8.2%
3	C	OC = 250 OP = 22	OC = 230 OP = 26	OC = 250 OP = 18	Total OC = 730 Total OP = 66	OP/OC = 9%
4	D	OC = 180 OP = (-)9	OC = 220 OP = 22	OC = 150 OP = 20	Total OC = 550 Total OP = 33	OP/OC = 6%
5	E	OC = 140 OP = 21	OC = 100 OP = (-)8	OC = 125 OP = (-)5	Total OC = 365 Total OP = 8	OP/OC = 2.2%
6	F	OC = 160	OC = 120	OC = 140	Total OC =	OP/OC =

		OP = 21	OP = 14	OP = 15	420 Total OP = 50	11.9%
7	G	OC = 150 OP = 21	OC = 130 OP = 12	OC = 155 OP = 13	Total OC = 435 Total OP = 46	OP/OC = 10.57%

From the above, the dataset will be constructed as follows :

Sl no	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Values	2.2%	6%	8.2%	9%	10.57%	11.9%	12%

For construction of the arm's length range the data place of thirty-fifth and sixty-fifth percentile shall be computed in the following manner, namely:

Total no. of data points in dataset $\times (35/100)$

Total no. of data points in dataset $\times (65/100)$

Thus, the data place of the thirty-fifth percentile = $7 \times 0.35 = 2.45$.

Since this is not a whole number, the next higher data place, i.e. the value at the third place would have at least thirty five per cent of the values below it. The thirty-fifth percentile is therefore value at the third place, i.e. 8.2%.

The data place of the sixty-fifth percentile is = $7 \times 0.65 = 4.55$.

Since this is not a whole number, the next higher data place, i.e. the value at the fifth place would have at least sixty five per cent of the values below it. The sixty-fifth percentile is therefore value at fifth place, i.e. 10.57%.

The arm's length range will be beginning at 8.2% and ending at 10.57%.

Therefore, if the transaction price of the international transaction or the specified domestic transaction has OP/OC percentage which is equal to or more than 8.2% and less than or equal to 10.57%, it is within the range. The transaction price in such cases will be deemed to be the arm's length price and no adjustment shall be required. However, if the transaction price is outside the arm's length range, say 6.2%, then for the purpose of determining the arm's length price the median of the dataset shall be first determined in the following manner:

The data place of median is calculated by first computing the total number of data point in the dataset $\times (50/100)$. In this case it is $7 \times 0.5 = 3.5$.

Since this is not a whole number, the next higher data place, i.e. the value at the fourth place would have at least fifty per cent of the values below it (median).

The median is the value at fourth place, i.e., 9%. Therefore, the arm's length price shall be considered as 9% and adjustment shall accordingly be made.

Illustration 2.—The data of the current year is available in respect of enterprises A, C, E, F and G at the time of furnishing the return of income by the assessee and the data of the financial year

preceding the current year has been used to identify comparable uncontrolled transactions undertaken by enterprises B and D. Further, if the enterprises have also undertaken comparable uncontrolled transactions in earlier years as detailed in the table, the weighted average and dataset shall be computed as below:

Sl. No.	Name	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 [Current Year]	Aggregation of OC and OP	Weighted Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	OC = 100 OP = 12	OC = 150 OP = 10	OC = 225 OP = 35	Total OC = 475 Total OP = 57	OP/OC = 12%
2	B	OC = 80 OP = 10	OC = 125 OP = 5		Total OC = 205 Total OP = 15	OP/OC = 7.31%
3	C	OC = 250 OP = 22	OC = 230 OP = 26	OC = 250 OP = 18	Total OC = 730 Total OP = 66	OP/OC = 9%
4	D		OC = 220 OP = 22		Total OC = 220 Total OP = 22	OP/OC = 10%
5	E			OC = 100 OP = (-)5	Total OC = 100 Total OP = (-)5	OP/OC = (-) 5%
6	F	OC = 160 OP = 21	OC = 120 OP = 14	OC = 140 OP = 15	Total OC = 420 Total OP = 50	OP/OC = 11.9%
7	G	OC = 150 OP = 21	OC = 130 OP = 12	OC = 155 OP = 13	Total OC = 435 Total OP = 46	OP/OC = 10.57%

From the above, the dataset will be constructed as follows :

Sl no	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Values	(-5) %	7.31%	9%	10%	10.57%	11.9%	12%

If during the course of assessment proceedings, the data of the current year is available and the use of such data indicates that B has failed to pass any qualitative or quantitative filter or for any other reason the transaction undertaken is not a comparable uncontrolled transaction, then, B shall not be considered for inclusion in the dataset. Further, if the data available at this stage indicates a new

comparable uncontrolled transaction undertaken by enterprise H, then, it shall be included. The weighted average and dataset shall be recomputed as under :

Sl. No.	Name	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 [Current Year]	Aggregation of OC and OP	Weighted Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	A	OC = 100 OP = 12	OC = 150 OP = 10	OC = 225 OP = 35	Total OC = 475 Total OP = 57	OP/OC = 12%
2	C	OC = 250 OP = 22	OC = 230 OP = 26	OC = 250 OP = 18	Total OC = 730 Total OP = 66	OP/OC = 9%
3	D		OC = 220 OP = 22	OC = 150 OP = 20	Total OC = 370 Total OP = 42	OP/OC = 11.35%
4	E			OC = 100 OP = (-)5	Total OC = 100 Total OP = (-)5	OP/OC = (-) 5%
5	F	OC = 160 OP = 21	OC = 120 OP = 14	OC = 140 OP = 15	Total OC = 420 Total OP = 50	OP/OC = 11.9%
6	G	OC = 150 OP = 21	OC = 130 OP = 12	OC = 155 OP = 13	Total OC = 435 Total OP = 46	OP/OC = 10.57%
7	H	OC = 150 OP = 12		OC = 80 OP = 10	Total OC = 230 Total OP = 22	OP/OC = 9.56%

From the above, the dataset will be constructed as follows :

Sl no	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Values	(-5)%	9%	9.56%	10.57%	11.35%	11.9%	12%

Illustration 3.— In a given case the dataset of 20 prices arranged in ascending order is as under :

Sl. No.	Profits (in Rs. Thousand)
1	2

1	42.00
2	43.00
3	44.00
4	44.50
5	45.00
6	45.25
7	47.00
8	48.00
9	48.15
10	48.35
11	48.45
12	48.48
13	48.50
14	49.00
15	49.10
16	49.35
17	49.50
18	49.75
19	50.00
20	50.15

Applying the formula given in the Illustration 1, the data place of the thirty-fifth and sixty-fifty percentile is determined as follows:

Thirty-fifth percentile place = $20 * (35/100) = 7$.

Sixty-fifth percentile place = $20 * (65/100) = 13$.

Since the thirty-fifth percentile place is a whole number, it shall be the average of the prices at the seventh and next higher, i.e.; eighth place. This is $(47+48)/2 = \text{Rs.}47,500$.

Similarly, the sixty-fifth percentile will be average of thirteenth and fourteenth place prices. This is $(48.5+49)/2=\text{Rs.}48,750$

The median of the range (the fiftieth percentile place) = $20*(50/100)=10$

Since the fiftieth percentile place is a whole number, it shall be the average of the prices at the tenth and next higher, i.e.; eleventh place. This is $(48.35+48.45)/2= \text{Rs.}48,400$.

Thus, the arm's length range in this case shall be from Rs.47,500 to Rs.48,750.

Consequently, any transaction price which is equal to or more than Rs.47,500 but less than or equal to Rs.48,750 shall be considered to be within the arm's length range.

NOTIFICATION NO 86/2015 DATED 29-10-2015

In exercise of the powers conferred by the third proviso to sub-section (2) of section 92C of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with proviso to sub-rule (7) of rule 10CA of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, the Central Government hereby notifies that where the variation between the arm's length price determined under section 92C and the price at which the international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken does not exceed one percent. of the latter in respect of wholesale trading and three percent. of the latter in all other cases, the price at which the

international transaction or specified domestic transaction has actually been undertaken shall be deemed to be the arm's length price for Assessment Year 2015-2016.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this notification, "wholesale trading" means an international transaction or specified domestic transaction of trading in goods, which fulfils the following conditions, namely:-

- (i) purchase cost of finished goods is 80 percent. or more of the total cost pertaining to such trading activities; and
- (ii) average monthly closing inventory of such goods is 10 percent. or less of sales pertaining to such trading activities.

Reference to Transfer Pricing Officer. (SECTION 92CA)

RTP M-12 "The Finance Act, 2011 has expanded the scope of powers of the Transfer Pricing Officer" - Discuss the correctness or otherwise of this statement?

92CA. (1) Where any person, being the assessee, has entered into an international transaction or specified domestic transaction in any previous year, and the Assessing Officer considers it necessary or expedient so to do, he may, with the previous approval of the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, refer the computation of the arm's length price in relation to the said international transaction or specified domestic transaction under section 92C to the Transfer Pricing Officer.

(2) Where a reference is made under sub-section (1), the Transfer Pricing Officer shall serve a notice on the assessee requiring him to produce or cause to be produced on a date to be specified therein, any evidence on which the assessee may rely in support of the computation made by him of the arm's length price in relation to the international transaction or specified domestic transaction referred to in sub-section (1).

(2A) Where any other international transaction other than an international transaction referred under sub-section (1), comes to the notice of the Transfer Pricing Officer during the course of the proceedings before him, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply as if such other international transaction is an international transaction referred to him under sub-section (1).

(2B) where in respect of an international transaction, the assessee has not furnished the report under section 92E and such transaction comes to the notice of the Transfer Pricing Officer during the course of the proceeding before him, the provisions of this Chapter shall apply as if such transaction is an international transaction referred to him under sub-section (1).

(2C) nothing contained in sub-section (2B) shall empower the Assessing Officer either to assess or reassess under section 147 or pass an order enhancing the assessment or reducing a refund already made or otherwise increasing the liability of the assessee under section 154, for any assessment year, proceedings for which have been completed before the 1-07-2012.

(3) On the date specified in the notice under sub-section (2), or as soon thereafter as may be, after hearing such evidence as the assessee may produce, including any information or documents referred to in sub-section (3) of section 92D and after considering such evidence as the Transfer Pricing Officer may require on any specified points and after taking into account all relevant materials which he has gathered, the Transfer Pricing Officer shall, by order in writing, determine the

arm's length price in relation to the international transaction or specified domestic transaction in accordance with sub-section (3) of section 92C and send a copy of his order to the Assessing Officer and to the assessee.

(3A) Where a reference was made under sub-section (1) before the 1-06-2007 but the order under sub-section (3) has not been made by the Transfer Pricing Officer before the said date, or a reference under sub-section (1) is made on or after the 1-06-2007, an order under sub-section (3) may be made at any time before sixty days prior to the date on which the period of limitation referred to in section 153, or as the case may be, in section 153B for making the order of assessment or reassessment or recomputation or fresh assessment, as the case may be, expires.

(4) On receipt of the order under sub-section (3), the Assessing Officer shall proceed to compute the total income of the assessee under sub-section (4) of section 92C in conformity with the arm's length price as so determined by the Transfer Pricing Officer.

(5) With a view to rectifying any mistake apparent from the record, the Transfer Pricing Officer may amend any order passed by him under sub-section (3), and the provisions of section 154 shall, so far as may be, apply accordingly.

(6) Where any amendment is made by the Transfer Pricing Officer under sub-section (5), he shall send a copy of his order to the Assessing Officer who shall thereafter proceed to amend the order of assessment in conformity with such order of the Transfer Pricing Officer.

(7) The Transfer Pricing Officer may, for the purposes of determining the arm's length price under this section, exercise all or any of the powers specified in clauses (a) to (d) of sub-section (1) of section 131 or sub-section (6) of section 133 or section 133A.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "Transfer Pricing Officer" means a Joint Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner authorised by the Board to perform all or any of the functions of an Assessing Officer specified in sections 92C and 92D in respect of any person or class of persons.

Power of Board to make safe harbour rules. (SECTION 92CB)

92CB. (1) The determination of arm's length price under section 92C or section 92CA shall be subject to safe harbour rules.

(2) The Board may, for the purposes of sub-section (1), make rules for safe harbour.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "safe harbour" means circumstances in which the income-tax authorities shall accept the transfer price declared by the assessee.

Rules 10TA to 10TG and Form No. 3CEFA (for international transactions). (I propose to opt for the safe harbour rules under section 92CB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rule 10TA to rule 10TG of Income-tax Rules, 1962.)

Rules 10TH to 10THD and Form No. 3CEFB (See domestic transactions). (I propose to opt for the safe harbour rules under section 92CB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 read with rules 10TH to 10THD of the Income-tax Rules, 1962.)

Definitions.(RULE – 10TA)

10TA. *For the purposes of this rule and rule 10TB to rule 10TG,—*

(a) "contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to software development" means the following, namely:—

(i) research and development producing new theorems and algorithms in the field of theoretical computer science;

(ii) development of information technology at the level of operating systems, programming languages, data management, communications software and software development tools;

(iii) development of Internet technology;

(iv) research into methods of designing, developing, deploying or maintaining software;

(v) software development that produces advances in generic approaches for capturing, transmitting, storing, retrieving, manipulating or displaying information;

(vi) experimental development aimed at filling technology knowledge gaps as necessary to develop a software programme or system;

(vii) research and development on software tools or technologies in specialised areas of computing (image processing, geographic data presentation, character recognition, artificial intelligence and such other areas);or

(viii) upgradation of existing products where source code has been made available by the principal;

(b) "core auto components" means,—

(i) engine and engine parts, including piston and piston rings, engine valves and parts cooling systems and parts and power train components;

(ii) transmission and steering parts, including gears, wheels, steering systems, axles and clutches;

(iii) suspension and braking parts, including brake and brake assemblies, brake linings, shock absorbers and leaf springs;

(c) "corporate guarantee" means explicit corporate guarantee extended by a company to its wholly owned subsidiary being a non-resident in respect of any short-term or long-term borrowing.

Explanation.—*For the purposes of this clause, explicit corporate guarantee does not include letter of comfort, implicit corporate guarantee, performance guarantee or any other guarantee of similar nature;*

(d) "generic pharmaceutical drug" means a drug that is comparable to a drug already approved by the regulatory authority in dosage form, strength, route of administration, quality and performance characteristics, and intended use;

(e) "information technology enabled services" means the following business process outsourcing services provided mainly with the assistance or use of information technology, namely:—

- (i) back office operations;*
- (ii) call centres or contact centre services;*
- (iii) data processing and data mining;*
- (iv) insurance claim processing;*
- (v) legal databases;*
- (vi) creation and maintenance of medical transcription excluding medical advice;*
- (vii) translation services;*
- (viii) payroll;*
- (ix) remote maintenance;*
- (x) revenue accounting;*
- (xi) support centres;*
- (xii) website services;*
- (xiii) data search integration and analysis;*
- (xiv) remote education excluding education content development; or*
- (xv) clinical database management services excluding clinical trials,*

but does not include any research and development services whether or not in the nature of contract research and development services;

(f) "intra-group loan" means loan advanced to wholly owned subsidiary being a non-resident, where the loan—

- (i) is sourced in Indian rupees;*
- (ii) is not advanced by an enterprise, being a financial company including a bank or a financial institution or an enterprise engaged in lending or borrowing in the normal course of business; and*
- (iii) does not include credit line or any other loan facility which has no fixed term for repayment;*

(g) "knowledge process outsourcing services" means the following business process outsourcing services provided mainly with the assistance or use of information technology requiring application of knowledge and advanced analytical and technical skills, namely:—

- (i) geographic information system;*
- (ii) human resources services;*

(iii) engineering and design services;

(iv) animation or content development and management;

(v) business analytics;

(vi) financial analytics; or

(vii) market research,

but does not include any research and development services whether or not in the nature of contract research and development services;

(h) "non-core auto components" mean auto components other than core auto components;

(i) "no tax or low tax country or territory" means a country or territory in which the maximum rate of income-tax is less than fifteen per cent;

(j) "operating expense" means the costs incurred in the previous year by the assessee in relation to the international transaction during the course of its normal operations including depreciation and amortisation expenses relating to the assets used by the assessee, but not including the following, namely:—

(i) interest expense;

(ii) provision for unascertained liabilities;

(iii) pre-operating expenses;

(iv) loss arising on account of foreign currency fluctuations;

(v) extraordinary expenses;

(vi) loss on transfer of assets or investments;

(vii) expense on account of income-tax; and

(viii) other expenses not relating to normal operations of the assessee;

(k) "operating revenue" means the revenue earned by the assessee in the previous year in relation to the international transaction during the course of its normal operations but not including the following, namely:—

(i) interest income;

(ii) income arising on account of foreign currency fluctuations;

(iii) income on transfer of assets or investments;

(iv) refunds relating to income-tax;

(v) provisions written back;

(vi) extraordinary incomes; and

(vii) other incomes not relating to normal operations of the assessee.

(l) "operating profit margin" in relation to operating expense means the ratio of operating profit, being the operating revenue in excess of operating expense, to the operating expense expressed in terms of percentage;

(m) "software development services" means,—

(i) business application software and information system development using known methods and existing software tools;

(ii) support for existing systems;

(iii) converting or translating computer languages;

(iv) adding user functionality to application programmes;

(v) debugging of systems;

(vi) adaptation of existing software; or

(vii) preparation of user documentation,

but does not include any research and development services whether or not in the nature of contract research and development services.]

Eligible assessee.(RULE-10TB)

10TB. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-rules (2) and (3), the 'eligible assessee' means a person who has exercised a valid option for application of safe harbour rules in accordance with rule 10TE, and—

(i) is engaged in providing software development services or information technology enabled services or knowledge process outsourcing services, with insignificant risk, to a non-resident associated enterprise (hereinafter referred as foreign principal);

(ii) has made any intra-group loan;

(iii) has provided a corporate guarantee;

(iv) is engaged in providing contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to software development, with insignificant risk, to a foreign principal;

(v) is engaged in providing contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to generic pharmaceutical drugs, with insignificant risk, to a foreign principal; or

(vi) is engaged in the manufacture and export of core or non-core auto components and where ninety per cent or more of total turnover during the relevant previous year is in the nature of original equipment manufacturer sales.

(2) For the purposes of identifying an eligible assessee, with insignificant risk, referred to in item (i) of sub-rule (1), the Assessing Officer or the Transfer Pricing Officer, as the case may be, shall have regard to the following factors, namely:—

(a) the foreign principal performs most of the economically significant functions involved, including the critical functions such as conceptualisation and design of the product and providing the strategic direction and framework, either through its own employees or through its other associated enterprises, while the eligible assessee carries out the work assigned to it by the foreign principal;

(b) the capital and funds and other economically significant assets including the intangibles required, are provided by the foreign principal or its other associated enterprises, and the eligible assessee is only provided a remuneration for the work carried out by it;

(c) the eligible assessee works under the direct supervision of the foreign principal or its associated enterprise which not only has the capability to control or supervise but also actually controls or supervises the activities carried out through its strategic decisions to perform core functions as well as by monitoring activities on a regular basis;

(d) the eligible assessee does not assume or has no economically significant realised risks, and if a contract shows that the foreign principal is obligated to control the risk but the conduct shows that the eligible assessee is doing so, the contractual terms shall not be the final determinant;

(e) the eligible assessee has no ownership right, legal or economic, on any intangible generated or on the outcome of any intangible generated or arising during the course of rendering of services, which vests with the foreign principal as evident from the contract and the conduct of the parties.

(3) For the purposes of identifying an eligible assessee, with insignificant risk, referred to in items (iv) and (v) of sub-rule (1), the Assessing Officer or the Transfer Pricing Officer, as the case may be, shall have regard to the following factors, namely:—

(a) the foreign principal performs most of the economically significant functions involved in research or product development cycle, including the critical functions such as conceptualisation and design of the product and providing the strategic direction and framework, either through its own employees or through its other associated enterprises while the eligible assessee carries out the work assigned to it by the foreign principal;

(b) the foreign principal or its other associated enterprises provides the funds or capital and other economically significant assets including intangibles required for research or product development and also provides a remuneration to the eligible assessee for the work carried out by it;

(c) the eligible assessee works under the direct supervision of the foreign principal or its other associated enterprise which has not only the capability to control or supervise but also actually controls or supervises research or product development, through its strategic decisions to perform core functions as well as by monitoring activities on a regular basis;

(d) the eligible assessee does not assume or has no economically significant realised risks, and if a contract shows that the foreign principal is obligated to control the risk but the conduct shows that the eligible assessee is doing so, the contractual terms shall not be the final determinant;

(e) the eligible assessee has no ownership right, legal or economic, on the outcome of the research which vests with the foreign principal and is evident from the contract as well as the conduct of the parties.

Eligible international transaction(RULE-10TC)

10TC. 'Eligible international transaction' means an international transaction between the eligible assessee and its associated enterprise, either or both of whom are non-resident, and which comprises of:

- (i) provision of software development services;
- (ii) provision of information technology enabled services;
- (iii) provision of knowledge process outsourcing services;
- (iv) advance of intra-group loan;
- (v) provision of corporate guarantee, where the amount guaranteed, —
 - (a) does not exceed one hundred crore rupees; or
 - (b) exceeds one hundred crore rupees, and the credit rating of the associated enterprise, done by an agency registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, is of the adequate to highest safety;
- (vi) provision of contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to software development;
- (vii) provision of contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to generic pharmaceutical drugs;
- (viii) manufacture and export of core auto components; or
- (ix) manufacture and export of non-core auto components, by the eligible assessee.

Safe Harbour.(RULE-10TD)

10TD. (1) Where an eligible assessee has entered into an eligible international transaction and the option exercised by the said assessee is not held to be invalid under rule 10TE, the transfer price declared by the assessee in respect of such transaction shall be accepted by the income-tax authorities, if it is in accordance with the circumstances as specified in sub-rule (2).

(2) The circumstances referred to in sub-rule (1) in respect of the eligible international transaction specified in column (2) of the Table below shall be as specified in the corresponding entry in column (3) of the said Table:

SL.NO	Eligible International Transaction	Circumstances
1	Provision of software development services referred to in item (i) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense

		incurred is - (i) not less than 20 per cent, where the aggregate value of such transactions entered into during the previous year does not exceed a sum of five hundred crore rupees; or (ii) not less than 22 per cent, where the aggregate value of such transactions entered into during the previous year exceeds a sum of five hundred crore rupees.
2	Provision of information technology enabled services referred to in item (ii) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense is - (i) not less than 20 per cent, where the aggregate value of such transactions entered into during the previous year does not exceed a sum of five hundred crore rupees; or (ii) not less than 22 per cent, where the aggregate value of such transactions entered into during the previous year exceeds a sum of five hundred crore rupees.
3	Provision of knowledge process outsourcing services referred to in item (iii) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense is not less than 25 per cent.
4	Advancing of intra-group loans referred to in item (iv) of rule 10TC where the amount of loan does not exceed fifty crore rupees.	The Interest rate declared in relation to the eligible international transaction is not less than the base rate of State Bank of India as on 30th June of the relevant previous year plus 150 basis points.
5	Advancing of intra-group loans referred to in item (iv) of rule 10TC where the amount of loan exceeds fifty crore rupees.	The Interest rate declared in relation to the eligible international transaction is not less than the base rate of State Bank of India as on 30th June of the relevant previous year plus 300 basis points.
6	Providing corporate guarantee referred to in sub-item (a) of item (v) of rule 10TC.	The commission or fee declared in relation to the eligible international transaction is at the rate not less than 2 per cent per annum on the amount guaranteed.
7	Providing corporate guarantee referred to in sub-item (b) of item (v) of rule 10TC.	The commission or fee declared in relation to the eligible international transaction is at the rate not less than 1.75 per cent. per annum on the amount guaranteed.
8	Provision of contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to software development referred to in item (vi) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense incurred is not less than 30 per cent.
9	Provision of contract research and development services wholly or partly relating to generic pharmaceutical drugs	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense

	referred to in item (vii) of rule 10TC.	incurred is not less than 29 per cent.
10	Manufacture and export of core auto components referred to in item (viii) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense is not less than 12 per cent.
11	Manufacture and export of non-core auto components referred to in item (ix) of rule 10TC.	The operating profit margin declared by the eligible assessee from the eligible international transaction in relation to operating expense is not less than 8.5 per cent.

(3) The provisions of sub-rules (1) and (2) shall apply for the assessment year 2013-14 and 4 assessment years immediately following that assessment year.

(4) No comparability adjustment and allowance under the **second proviso** to sub-section (2) of section 92C shall be made to the transfer price declared by the eligible assessee and accepted under sub-rules (1) and (2) above.

(5) The provisions of sections 92D and 92E in respect of an international transaction shall apply irrespective of the fact that the assessee exercises his option for safe harbour in respect of such transaction

MTP SEP-2014 : Aarti Limited, an Indian company, is engaged in manufacturing electronic components. 74% of shares of the company are held by Alex Inc., incorporated in USA. Aarti Limited has borrowed funds from Alex Inc. at LIBOR plus 150 points. The LIBOR prevalent at the time of borrowing is 4% for US \$. The borrowings allowed under the External Commercial Borrowings guidelines issued under Foreign Exchange Management Act are LIBOR plus 200 basis points. Discuss whether the borrowing made by Aarti Limited is at arm's length ('LIBOR' means London Inter- Bank Offer Rate).(5 Marks)

Procedure.(RULE-10TE)

10TE. (1) *For the purposes of exercise of the option for safe harbour, the assessee shall furnish a Form 3CEFA, complete in all respects, to the Assessing Officer on or before the due date specified in Explanation 2 below sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income for—*

- (i) the relevant assessment year, in case the option is exercised only for that assessment year; or*
- (ii) the first of the assessment years, in case the option is exercised for more than one assessment year:*

Provided that the return of income for the relevant assessment year or the first of the relevant assessment years, as the case may be, is furnished by the assessee on or before the date of furnishing of Form 3CEFA.

(2) The option for safe harbour validly exercised shall continue to remain in force for the period specified in Form 3CEFA or a period of five years whichever is less:

Provided that the assessee shall, in respect of the assessment year or years following the initial assessment year, furnish a statement to the Assessing Officer before furnishing return of income of

that year, providing details of eligible transactions, their quantum and the profit margins or the rate of interest or commission shown:

Provided further that an option for safe harbour shall not remain in force in respect of any assessment year following the initial assessment year, if—

(i) the option is held to be invalid for the relevant assessment year by the Transfer Pricing Officer under sub-rule (11) or by the Commissioner under sub-rule (8) in respect of an objection filed by the assessee against the order of the Transfer Pricing Officer under sub-rule (11), as the case may be; or

(ii) the eligible assessee opts out of the safe harbour, for the relevant assessment year, by furnishing a declaration to that effect, to the Assessing Officer.

(3) On receipt of Form 3CEFA, the Assessing Officer shall verify whether—

(i) the assessee exercising the option is an eligible assessee; and

(ii) the transaction in respect of which the option is exercised is an eligible international transaction, before the option for safe harbour by the assessee is treated to be validly exercised.

(4) Where the Assessing officer doubts the valid exercise of the option for the safe harbour by an assessee, he shall make a reference to the Transfer Pricing Officer for determination of the eligibility of the assessee or the international transaction or both for the purposes of the safe harbour.

(5) For the purposes of sub-rule (4) and sub-rule (10), the Transfer Pricing Officer may require the assessee, by notice in writing, to furnish such information or documents or other evidence as he may consider necessary, and the assessee shall furnish the same within the time specified in such notice.

(6) Where—

(a) the assessee does not furnish the information or documents or other evidence required by the Transfer Pricing Officer; or

(b) the Transfer Pricing Officer finds that the assessee is not an eligible assessee; or

(c) the Transfer Pricing Officer finds that the international transaction in respect of which the option referred to in sub-rule (1) has been exercised is not an eligible international transaction,

the Transfer Pricing Officer shall, by order in writing, declare the option exercised by the assessee under sub-rule (1) to be invalid and cause a copy of the said order to be served on the assessee and the Assessing Officer:

Provided that no order declaring the option exercised by the assessee to be invalid shall be passed without giving an opportunity of being heard to the assessee.

(7) If the assessee objects to the order of the Transfer Pricing Officer under sub-rule (6) or sub-rule (11) declaring the option to be invalid, he may file his objections with the Commissioner, to whom the Transfer Pricing Officer is subordinate, within fifteen days of receipt of the order of the Transfer Pricing Officer.

(8) On receipt of the objection referred to in sub-rule (7), the Commissioner shall after providing an opportunity of being heard to the assessee pass appropriate orders in respect of the validity or otherwise of the option exercised by the assessee and cause a copy of the said order to be served on the assessee and the Assessing Officer.

(9) In a case where option exercised by the assessee has been held to be valid, the Assessing officer shall proceed to verify whether the transfer price declared by the assessee in respect of the relevant eligible international transactions is in accordance with the circumstances specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 10 TD and, if it is not in accordance with the said circumstances, the Assessing Officer shall adopt the operating profit margin or rate of interest or commission specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 10TD.

(10) Where the facts and circumstances on the basis of which the option exercised by the assessee was held to be valid have changed and the Assessing Officer has reason to doubt the eligibility of an assessee or the international transaction for any assessment year other than the initial Assessment Year falling within the period for which the option was exercised by the assessee, he shall make a reference to the Transfer Pricing Officer for determination of eligibility of the assessee or the international transaction or both for the purpose of safe harbour.

Explanation.—For purposes of this sub-rule the facts and circumstances include:—

(a) functional profile of the assessee in respect of the international transaction;

(b) the risks being undertaken by the assessee;

(c) the substantive contractual conditions governing the role of the assessee in respect of the international transaction;

(d) the conduct of the assessee as referred to in sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) of rule 10TB; or

(e) the substantive nature of the international transaction.

(11) The Transfer Pricing Officer on receipt of a reference under sub-rule (10) shall, by an order in writing, determine the validity or otherwise of the option exercised by the assessee for the relevant year after providing an opportunity of being heard to the assessee and cause a copy of the said order to be served on the assessee and the Assessing Officer.

(12) Nothing contained in this rule shall affect the power of the Assessing Officer to make a reference under section 92CA in respect of international transaction other than the eligible international transaction.

(13) Where no option for safe harbour has been exercised under sub-rule (1) by an eligible assessee in respect of an eligible international transaction entered into by the assessee or the option exercised by the assessee is held to be invalid, the arm's length price in relation to such international transaction shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of sections 92C and 92CA without having regard to the profit margin or the rate of interest or commission as specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 10TD.

(14) For the purposes of this rule,—

(i) no reference under sub-rule(4) shall be made by an Assessing Officer after expiry of a period of two months from the end of the month in which Form 3CEFA is received by him;

(ii) no order under sub-rule (6) or sub-rule (11) shall be passed by the Transfer Pricing Officer after expiry of a period of two months from the end of the month in which the reference from the Assessing officer under sub-rule(4) or sub-rule (10), as the case may be, is received by him;

(iii) the order under sub-rule (8) shall be passed by the Commissioner within a period of two months from the end of the month in which the objection filed by the assessee under sub-rule (7) is received by him.

(15) If the Assessing Officer or the Transfer Pricing Officer or the Commissioner, as the case may be, does not make a reference or pass an order, as the case may be, within the time specified in sub-rule (14), then the option for safe harbour exercised by the assessee shall be treated as valid.

Safe harbour rules not to apply in certain cases.(RULE-10TF)

10TF. Nothing contained in rules 10TA, 10TB, 10TC, 10TD or rule 10TE shall apply in respect of eligible international transactions entered into with an associated enterprise located in any country or territory notified under section 94A or in a no tax or low tax country or territory.

Mutual Agreement Procedure not to apply.(RULE-10TG)

10TG. Where transfer price in relation to an eligible international transaction declared by an eligible assessee is accepted by the income-tax authorities under section 92CB, the assessee shall not be entitled to invoke mutual agreement procedure under an agreement for avoidance of double taxation entered into with a country or specified territory outside India as referred to in section 90 or 90A.

Safe Harbour Rules for Specified Domestic Transactions(RULE-10TH)

10TH. Definitions.— For the purposes of this rule and rules 10THA to 10THD,—

(a) "Appropriate Commission" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in sub-section (4) of section 2 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003);

(b) "Government company" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in sub-section (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013);

Procedure.(RULE-10THD)

10THD. (1) For the purposes of exercise of the option for safe harbour, the assessee shall furnish a Form 3CEFB, complete in all respects, to the Assessing Officer on or before the due date specified in Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income for the relevant assessment year:

Provided that the return of income for the relevant assessment year is furnished by the assessee on or before the date of furnishing of Form 3CEFB:

Provided further that in respect of eligible specified domestic transactions undertaken during the previous year relevant to the assessment year beginning on the 1st day of April, 2013 or beginning on the 1st day of April, 2014, Form 3CEFB can be furnished by the assessee on or before the 31st day of March, 2015

(2) On receipt of Form 3CEFB, the Assessing Officer shall verify whether—

- (i) the assessee exercising the option is an eligible assessee; and*
- (ii) the transaction in respect of which the option is exercised is an eligible specified domestic transaction,*

before the option for safe harbour by the assessee is treated to be validly exercised.

(3) Where the Assessing Officer doubts the valid exercise of the option for the safe harbour by an assessee, he may require the assessee, by notice in writing, to furnish such information or documents or other evidence as he may consider necessary, and the assessee shall furnish the same within the time specified in such notice.

(4) Where—

- (a) the assessee does not furnish the information or documents or other evidence required by the Assessing Officer; or*
- (b) the Assessing Officer finds that the assessee is not an eligible assessee; or*
- (c) the Assessing Officer finds that the specified domestic transaction in respect of which the option referred to in sub-rule (1) has been exercised is not an eligible specified domestic transaction; or*
- (d) the tariff is not in accordance with the circumstances specified in sub-rule (2) of rule 10THC,*

the Assessing Officer shall, by order in writing, declare the option exercised by the assessee under sub-rule (1) to be invalid and cause a copy of the said order to be served on the assessee:

Provided that no order declaring the option exercised by the assessee to be invalid shall be passed without giving an opportunity of being heard to the assessee.

(5) If the assessee objects to the order of the Assessing Officer under sub-rule (4) declaring the option to be invalid, he may file his objections with the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner or the Principal Director or the Director, as the case may be, to whom the Assessing Officer is subordinate, within fifteen days of receipt of the order of the Assessing Officer.

(6) On receipt of the objection referred to in sub-rule (5), the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner or the Principal Director or the Director, as the case may be, shall after providing an opportunity of being heard to the assessee, pass appropriate orders in respect of the validity or otherwise of the option exercised by the assessee and cause a copy of the said order to be served on the assessee and the Assessing Officer.

(7) For the purposes of this rule, —

- (i) no order under sub-rule (4) shall be made by an Assessing Officer after expiry of a period of three months from the end of the month in which Form 3CEFB is received by him;
- (ii) the order under sub-rule (6) shall be passed by the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner or Principal Director or Director, as the case may be, within a period of two months from the end of the month in which the objection filed by the assessee under sub-rule (5) is received by him.

(8) If the Assessing Officer or the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner or the Principal Director or the Director, as the case may be, does not pass an order within the time specified in sub-rule (7), then the option for safe harbour exercised by the assessee shall be treated as valid.

RTP N-14

Examine the following transactions and discuss whether the transfer price declared by the following assessee, who have exercised a valid option for application of safe harbour rules, can be accepted by the Income-tax Authorities –

	Assessee	International transaction	Aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14	Declared Operating Margin	Operating Expense
(1)	A Ltd., an Indian company	Provision of system support services to X Inc., which is a "specified foreign company" in relation to A Ltd.	₹ 600 crore	₹ 90 crore	₹450 crore
(2)	B Ltd., an Indian company	Provision of data processing services with the use of information technology to Y Inc., its foreign subsidiary.	₹ 400 crore	₹ 62 crore	₹300 crore
(3)	C & Co., a partnership firm registered under the Partnership Act, 1932	Provision of contract R & D services relating to development of internet technology, to XYZ & Co., a foreign firm, which holds 12% interest in C & Co.	₹ 100 crore	₹ 20 crore	₹ 70 crore
(4)	D Ltd., an Indian company	Provision of contract R & D services relating to generic pharmaceutical drug, to ABC Inc., a foreign company which guarantees 15% of the total borrowings of D Ltd.	₹ 50 crore	₹ 9 crore	₹ 30 crore
(5)	Sole proprietary concern of Mr.E, solely engaged in the original manufacture and export of	100% export of automobile transmission and steering parts to LMN LLP, a foreign LLP, controlled by Mr.E jointly with his relatives.	₹ 12 crore	₹ 1 crore	₹ 10 crore

	automobile transmission and steering parts.				
(6)	F Ltd. an Indian company, solely engaged in the original manufacture and export of non-core auto components.	100% export of non-core auto components to GKG Inc., a foreign company. F Ltd. appoints two-thirds of the Board of Directors of GKG Inc.	₹ 12 crore	₹ 1 crore	₹ 10 crore

In all the above cases, it may be assumed that the Indian entity which provides the services assumes insignificant risk. It may also be assumed that the foreign entities referred to above are non-resident in India.

Would your answer change, if in any of the cases mentioned above, the foreign entity is located in a notified jurisdictional area?

Section 92CB (1) provides that the determination of arm's length price under section 92C or section 92CA shall be subject to safe harbour rules. Safe harbour means circumstances in which the income tax authorities shall accept the transfer price declared by the assessee. Section 92CB (2) empowers the CBDT to prescribe such safe harbour rules or circumstances under which the transfer price declared by the assessee shall be accepted by the Income-tax Authorities.

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 92CB read with section 295 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, the CBDT has, vide Notification No.73/2013 dated 18.9.2013, prescribed safe harbour rules. Rule 10TD provides that where an eligible assessee has entered into an eligible international transaction and the option exercised by the said assessee is not held to be invalid under Rule 10TE, the transfer price declared by the assessee in respect of such transaction shall be accepted by the income- tax authorities, if it is in accordance with the circumstances set out thereunder.

An eligible assessee is a person who has exercised a valid option for application of safe harbour rules and is engaged in, inter alia, providing the following services, with insignificant risk, to a non-resident associated enterprise –

(i) software development services; or (ii) information technology enabled services; or (iii) knowledge process outsourcing services; or (iv) contract R & D services wholly or partly relating to software development; or (v) contract R & D services wholly or partly relating to generic pharmaceutical drugs.

A person who is engaged in the manufacture and export of core or non-core auto components and where 90% or more of total turnover during the relevant previous year is in the nature of original equipment manufacturer sales also falls within the definition of eligible assessee if he has exercised a valid option for application of safe harbour rules.

(1) X Inc. is a specified foreign company in relation to A Ltd. Therefore, the condition of A Ltd. holding shares carrying not less than 26% of the voting power in X Inc is satisfied. Hence, X Inc. and A Ltd. are deemed to be associated enterprises. Therefore, provision of systems support services by A Ltd., an Indian company, to X Inc., a foreign company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case. Systems support services falls within the definition of “software development services”, and hence, is an eligible international transaction. Since A Ltd. is providing software development services to a non-resident associated enterprise and has exercised a valid option for safe harbour rules, it is an eligible assessee. Since the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14 exceed `

500 crore, A Ltd. should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 22% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the safe harbour rules. However, since A Ltd. has declared an operating profit margin of only 20% (i.e., $90/450 \times 100$) The same is not in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, it is not binding on the income-tax authorities to accept the transfer price declared by A Ltd.

(2) Y Inc., a foreign company, is a subsidiary of B Ltd., an Indian company. Hence, Y Inc. and B Ltd. are associated enterprises. Therefore, provision of data processing services by B Ltd., an Indian company, to Y Inc., a foreign company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

Data processing services with the use of information technology falls within the definition of “information technology enabled services”, and is hence, an eligible international transaction. Since B Ltd. is providing data processing services to a non-resident associated enterprise and has exercised a valid option for safe harbour rules, it is an eligible assessee.

Since the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14 does not exceed ` 500 crore, B Ltd. should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 20% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the scope of safe harbour rules. In this case, since B Ltd. has declared an operating profit margin of 20.67% (i.e. $62/300 \times 100$) the same is in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, the income-tax authorities shall accept the transfer price declared by B Ltd in respect of such international transaction.

(3) XYZ & Co., a foreign firm holds 12% interest in C & Co., an Indian firm. Therefore, the condition of one enterprise, being a foreign firm, holding not less than 10% interest in another enterprise, being an Indian firm, is satisfied. Hence, XYZ & Co. and C & Co. are deemed to be associated enterprises. Therefore, provision of contract R & D services relating to software development by C & Co., an Indian firm, to XYZ & Co., a foreign firm, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

Development of internet technology falls within the meaning of “contract R&D services wholly or partly relating to software development”, and hence, is an eligible international transaction. Since C & Co., an Indian firm, is providing contract R & D services to a non-resident associated enterprise and has exercised a valid option for safe harbour rules, it is an eligible assessee.

Irrespective of the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14, C & Co. should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 30% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the safe harbour rules. However, since C & Co. has declared an operating profit margin of only 28.57% (i.e. $20/70 \times 100$) the same is not in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, it is not binding on the income-tax authorities to accept the transfer price declared by C & Co.

(4) ABC Inc., a foreign company, guarantees 15% of the total borrowings of D Ltd., an Indian company. Since ABC Inc. guarantees not less than 10% of the total borrowings of D Ltd., ABC Inc. and D Ltd. are deemed to be associated enterprises. Therefore, provision of contract R & D services relating to generic pharmaceutical drug by D Ltd., an Indian company, to ABC Inc., a foreign company, is an international transaction between associated enterprises, and consequently, the provisions of transfer pricing are attracted in this case.

Provision of contract R& D services in relation to generic pharmaceutical drug is an eligible international transaction. Since D Ltd. is providing such services to a non- resident associated enterprise and has exercised a valid option for safe harbour rules, it is an eligible assessee.

Irrespective of the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14, D Ltd. should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 29% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the scope of safe harbour rules. In this case, since D Ltd. has declared an operating profit margin of 30% (i.e., $9/30 \times 100$) the same is in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, the income-tax authorities shall accept the transfer price declared by D Ltd in respect of such international transaction.

(5) LMN LLP, a foreign LLP, is controlled by Mr.E jointly with his relatives. Mr. E also has control over his own sole proprietorship concern. Therefore, the sole proprietorship concern of Mr.E in India and LMN LLP are deemed to be associated enterprises.

Automobile transmission and steering parts fall within the meaning of “core auto components”, and hence, 100% export of all such parts originally manufactured by the sole proprietorship concern of Mr.E is an eligible international transaction. Since the sole proprietorship concern of Mr.E is solely engaged in the original manufacture and 100% export of such parts and has exercised a valid option for safe harbour rules, it is an eligible assessee.

Irrespective of the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14, the sole-proprietorship concern of Mr.E should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 12% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the safe harbour rules. However, since A Ltd. has declared an operating profit¹ margin of only 10% (i.e., $1/10 \times 100$) $\times$), the same is not in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, it is not binding on the income-tax authorities to accept the transfer price declared by Mr.E.

(6) F Ltd. and GKG Inc. are deemed to be associated enterprises since F Ltd. appoints more than half of the Board of Directors of GKG Inc. Manufacture and export of non-core auto components is an eligible international transaction. Since F Ltd. is engaged in original manufacture of non-core auto components and 100% export of the same, it is an eligible assessee.

Irrespective of the aggregate value of transactions entered into in the P.Y.2013-14, F Ltd. should have declared an operating profit margin of not less than 8.5% in relation to operating expense, to be covered within the scope of safe harbour rules. In this case, since F Ltd. has declared an operating profit margin of 10% (i.e., $1/10 \times 100$) the same is in accordance with the circumstance mentioned in Rule 10TD. Hence, the income-tax authorities shall accept the transfer price declared by F Ltd in respect of such international transaction.

The safe harbour rules shall not apply in respect of eligible international transactions entered into with an associated enterprise located in a notified jurisdictional area. Therefore, if in any of the cases mentioned above, the foreign entity is located in a NJA, the safe harbour rules shall not be applicable, irrespective of the operating profit margin declared by the assessee.

Advance pricing agreement.(SECTION 92CC)

MTP OCTOBER-15(4 MARKS) : “In the Indian context, Advance Pricing Agreements entered into for determining arm’s length price in relation to an international transaction is valid only for a period, not exceeding 5 years, prospective to the date of agreement and cannot be applied in respect of prior period transactions” – Discuss the correctness or otherwise of this statement.

92CC. (1) The Board, with the approval of the Central Government, may enter into an advance pricing agreement with any person, determining the arm's length price or specifying the manner in which arm's length price is to be determined, in relation to an international transaction to be entered into by that person.

(2) The manner of determination of arm's length price referred to in sub-section (1), may include the methods referred to in sub-section (1) of section 92C or any other method, with such adjustments or variations, as may be necessary or expedient so to do.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 92C or section 92CA, the arm's length price of any international transaction, in respect of which the advance pricing agreement has been entered into, shall be determined in accordance with the advance pricing agreement so entered.

(4) The agreement referred to in sub-section (1) shall be valid for such period not exceeding five consecutive previous years as may be specified in the agreement.

(5) The advance pricing agreement entered into shall be binding—

(a) on the person in whose case, and in respect of the transaction in relation to which, the agreement has been entered into; and

(b) on the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, and the income-tax authorities subordinate to him, in respect of the said person and the said transaction.

(6) The agreement referred to in sub-section (1) shall not be binding if there is a change in law or facts having bearing on the agreement so entered.

(7) The Board may, with the approval of the Central Government, by an order, declare an agreement to be *void ab initio*, if it finds that the agreement has been obtained by the person by fraud or misrepresentation of facts.

(8) Upon declaring the agreement *void ab initio*,—

(a) all the provisions of the Act shall apply to the person as if such agreement had never been entered into; and

(b) notwithstanding anything contained in the Act, for the purpose of computing any period of limitation under this Act, the period beginning with the date of such agreement and ending on the date of order under sub-section (7) shall be excluded:

Provided that where immediately after the exclusion of the aforesaid period, the period of limitation, referred to in any provision of this Act, is less than sixty days, such remaining period shall

be extended to sixty days and the aforesaid period of limitation shall be deemed to be extended accordingly.

(9) The Board may, for the purposes of this section, prescribe⁵⁰ a scheme specifying therein the manner, form, procedure and any other matter generally in respect of the advance pricing agreement.

(9A) The agreement referred to in sub-section (1), may, subject to such conditions, procedure and manner as may be prescribed, provide for determining the arm's length price or specify the manner in which arm's length price shall be determined in relation to the international transaction entered into by the person during any period not exceeding four previous years preceding the first of the previous years referred to in sub-section (4), and the arm's length price of such international transaction shall be determined in accordance with the said agreement.

(10) Where an application is made by a person for entering into an agreement referred to in sub-section (1), the proceeding shall be deemed to be pending in the case of the person for the purposes of the Act.

Advance Pricing Agreement Scheme, rules 10F to 10T, rule 44GA and Form Nos. 3CEC to 3CEF.

For Roll Back of Agreement, see rules 10MA and 10RA and Form No. 3CEDA.

Meaning of expressions used in matters in respect of advance pricing agreement .(RULE-10F)

10F . For the purposes of this rule and rules 10G to 10T,—

- (a) "agreement" means an advance pricing agreement entered into between the Board and the applicant, with the approval of the Central Government, as referred to in sub-section (1) of section 92CC of the Act;
- (b) "application" means an application for advance pricing agreement made under rule 10-I;
- (ba) "applicant" means a person who has made an application;
- (c) "bilateral agreement" means an agreement between the Board and the applicant, subsequent to, and based on, any agreement referred to in rule 44GA between the competent authority in India with the competent authority in the other country regarding the most appropriate transfer pricing method or the arms' length price;
- (d) "competent authority in India" means an officer authorised by the Central Government for the purpose of discharging the functions as such for matters in respect of any agreement entered into under section 90 or 90A of the Act;
- (e) "covered transaction" means the international transaction or transactions for which agreement has been entered into;
- (f) "critical assumptions" means the factors and assumptions that are so critical and significant that neither party entering into an agreement will continue to be bound by the agreement, if any of the factors or assumptions is changed;

- (g) *"most appropriate transfer pricing method" means any of the transfer pricing method, referred to in sub-section (1) of section 92C of the Act, being the most appropriate method, having regard to the nature of transaction or class of transaction or class of associated persons or function performed by such persons or such other relevant factors prescribed by the Board under rules 10B and 10C;*
- (h) *"multilateral agreement" means an agreement between the Board and the applicant, subsequent to, and based on, any agreement referred to in rule 44GA between the competent authority in India with the competent authorities in the other countries regarding the most appropriate transfer pricing method or the arms' length price;*
- (ha) *"rollback year" means any previous year, falling within the period not exceeding four previous years, preceding the first of the previous years referred to in sub-section (4) of section 92CC;*
- (i) *"tax treaty" means an agreement under section 90, or section 90A of the Act for the avoidance of double taxation;*
- (j) *"team" means advance pricing agreement team consisting of income-tax authorities as constituted by the Board and including such number of experts in economics, statistics, law or any other field as may be nominated by the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation);*
- (k) *"unilateral agreement" means an agreement between the Board and the applicant which is neither a bilateral nor multilateral agreement.*

Persons eligible to apply.(RULE-10G)

10G. Any person who—

- (i) *has undertaken an international transaction; or*
- (ii) *is contemplating to undertake an international transaction,*

shall be eligible to enter into an agreement under these rules.

Pre-filing consultation(RULE-10H)

10H . (1) *Any person proposing to enter into an agreement under these rules may, by an application in writing, make a request for a pre-filing consultation.*

(2) *The request for pre-filing consultation shall be made in **Form No. 3CEC** (Application for a pre-filing meeting) to the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation).*

(3) *On receipt of the request in Form No. 3CEC, the team shall hold pre-filing consultation with the person referred to in rule 10G.*

(4) *The competent authority in India or his representative shall be associated in pre-filing consultation involving bilateral or multilateral agreement.*

(5) *The pre-filing consultation shall, among other things,—*

- (i) *determine the scope of the agreement;*
- (ii) *identify transfer pricing issues;*
- (iii) *determine the suitability of international transaction for the agreement;*
- (iv) *discuss broad terms of the agreement.*

(6) *The pre-filing consultation shall—*

- (i) *not bind the Board or the person to enter into an agreement or initiate the agreement process;*
- (ii) *not be deemed to mean that the person has applied for entering into an agreement.*

Application for advance pricing agreement. (RULE-10-I)

10-I . (1) *Any person, referred to in rule 10G may, if desires to enter into an agreement furnish an application in **Form No. 3CED** (Application for an Advance Pricing Agreement) along with the requisite fee.*

(2) *The application shall be furnished to Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) in case of unilateral agreement and to the competent authority in India in case of bilateral or multilateral agreement.*

(3) *Application in Form No. 3CED may be filed by the person referred to in rule 10G at any time—*

- (i) *before the first day of the previous year relevant to the first assessment year for which the application is made, in respect of transactions which are of a continuing nature from dealings that are already occurring; or*
- (ii) *before undertaking the transaction in respect of remaining transactions.*

(4) *Every application in Form No. 3CED shall be accompanied by the proof of payment of fees as specified in sub-rule (5).*

(5) *The fees payable shall be in accordance with following table based on the amount of international transaction entered into or proposed to be undertaken in respect of which the agreement is proposed:*

Amount of international transaction entered into or proposed to be undertaken in respect of which agreement is proposed during the proposed period of agreement.	Fee
<i>Amount not exceeding Rs. 100 crores</i>	10 Lacs
<i>Amount not exceeding Rs. 200 crores</i>	15 Lacs
<i>Amount exceeding Rs. 200 crores</i>	20 Lacs

Withdrawal of application for agreement.(RULE-10J)

10J. (1) *The applicant may withdraw the application for agreement at any time before the finalisation of the terms of the agreement.*

(2) *The application for withdrawal shall be in **Form No. 3CEE.**(Application for withdrawal of APA request)*

(3) *The fee paid shall not be refunded on withdrawal of application by the applicant.*

Preliminary processing of application .(RULE-10K)

10K . (1) *Every application filed in Form No. 3CED shall be complete in all respects and accompanied by requisite documents.*

(2) *If any defect is noticed in the application in Form No. 3CED or if any relevant document is not attached thereto or the application is not in accordance with understanding reached in any pre-filing consultation referred to in rule 10H, the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) (for unilateral agreement) and competent authority in India (for bilateral or multilateral agreement) shall serve a deficiency letter on the applicant before the expiry of one month from the date of receipt of the application.*

(3) *The applicant shall remove the deficiency or modify the application within a period of fifteen days from the date of service of the deficiency letter or within such further period which, on an application made in this behalf, may be extended, so however, that the total period of removal of deficiency or modification does not exceed thirty days.*

(4) *The Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) or the competent authority in India, as the case may be, on being satisfied, may pass an order providing that application shall not be allowed to be proceeded with if the application is defective and defect is not removed by applicant in accordance with sub-rule (3).*

(5) *No order under sub-rule (4) shall be passed without providing an opportunity of being heard to the applicant and if an application is not allowed to be proceeded with, the fee paid by the applicant shall be refunded.*

Procedure.(RULE-10L)

10L. (1) *If the application referred to in rule 10K has been allowed to be proceeded with, the team or the competent authority in India or his representative shall process the same in consultation and discussion with the applicant in accordance with provisions of this rule.*

(2) *For the purpose of sub-rule (1), it shall be competent for the team or the competent authority in India or its representative to—*

- (i) *hold meetings with the applicant on such time and date as it deem fit;*
- (ii) *call for additional document or information or material from the applicant;*
- (iii) *visit the applicant's business premises; or*
- (iv) *make such inquiries as it deems fit in the circumstances of the case.*

(3) *For the purpose of sub-rule (1), the applicant may, if he considers it necessary, provide further document and information for consideration of the team or the competent authority in India or his representative.*

(4) *For bilateral or multilateral agreement, the competent authority shall forward the application to Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) who shall assign it to one of the teams.*

(5) The team, to whom the application has been assigned under sub-rule (4), shall carry out the enquiry and prepare a draft report which shall be forwarded by the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) to the competent authority in India.

(6) If the applicant makes a request for bilateral or multilateral agreement in its application, the competent authority in India shall in addition to the procedure provided in this rule invoke the procedure provided in rule 44GA.

(7) The Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) (for unilateral agreement) or the competent authority in India (for bilateral or multilateral agreement) and the applicant shall prepare a proposed mutually agreed draft agreement enumerating the result of the process referred to in sub-rule (1) including the effect of the arrangement referred to in sub-rule (5) of rule 44GA which has been accepted by the applicant in accordance with sub-rule (8) of the said rule.

(8) The agreement shall be entered into by the Board with the applicant after its approval by the Central Government.

(9) Once an agreement has been entered into the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) or the competent authority in India, as the case may be, shall cause a copy of the agreement to be sent to the Commissioner of Income-tax having jurisdiction over the assessee.

Terms of the agreement .(RULE-10M)

10M . (1) An agreement may among other things, include—

- (i) the international transactions covered by the agreement;*
- (ii) the agreed transfer pricing methodology, if any;*
- (iii) determination of arm's length price, if any;*
- (iv) definition of any relevant term to be used in item (ii) or (iii);*
- (v) critical assumptions;*
- (va) rollback provision referred to in rule 10MA;*
- (vi) the conditions if any other than provided in the Act or these rules.*

(2) The agreement shall not be binding on the Board or the assessee if there is a change in any of critical assumptions or failure to meet conditions subject to which the agreement has been entered into.

(3) The binding effect of agreement shall cease only if any party has given due notice of the concerned other party or parties.

(4) In case there is a change in any of the critical assumptions or failure to meet the conditions subject to which the agreement has been entered into, the agreement can be revised or cancelled, as the case may be.

(5) The assessee which has entered into an agreement shall give a notice in writing of such change in any of the critical assumptions or failure to meet conditions to the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) as soon as it is practicable to do so.

(6) The Board shall give a notice in writing of such change in critical assumptions or failure to meet conditions to the assessee, as soon as it comes to the knowledge of the Board.

(7) The revision or the cancellation of the agreement shall be in accordance with rules 10Q and 10R respectively.

Amendments to Application.(RULE-10N)

10N. (1) An applicant may request in writing for an amendment to an application at any stage, before the finalisation of the terms of the agreement.

(2) The Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) (for unilateral agreement) or the competent authority in India (for bilateral or multilateral agreement) may, allow the amendment to the application, if such an amendment does not have effect of altering the nature of the application as originally filed.

(3) The amendment shall be given effect only if it is accompanied by the additional fee, if any, necessitated by such amendment in accordance with fee as provided in rule 10-I.

Furnishing of Annual Compliance Report. (RULE-10-O)

10-O. (1) The assessee shall furnish an annual compliance report to Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) for each year covered in the agreement.

*(2) The annual compliance report shall be in **Form 3CEF.**(Annual Compliance Report on Advance Pricing Agreement)*

*(3) The annual compliance report shall be furnished in quadruplicate, for each of the years covered in the agreement, within **thirty** days of the due date of filing the income-tax return for that year, or within ninety days of entering into an agreement, whichever is later.*

(4) The Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) shall send one copy of annual compliance report to the competent authority in India, one copy to the Commissioner of Income-tax who has the jurisdiction over the income-tax assessment of the assessee and one copy to the Transfer Pricing Officer having the jurisdiction over the assessee.

Compliance Audit of the agreement.(RULE-10P)

10P. (1) The Transfer Pricing Officer having the jurisdiction over the assessee shall carry out the compliance audit of the agreement for each of the year covered in the agreement.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1), the Transfer Pricing Officer may require—

- (i) the assessee to substantiate compliance with the terms of the agreement, including satisfaction of the critical assumptions, correctness of the supporting data or information and consistency of the application of the transfer pricing method;*
- (ii) the assessee to submit any information, or document, to establish that the terms of the agreement has been complied with.*

(3) The Transfer Pricing Officer shall submit the compliance audit report, for each year covered in the agreement, to the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) in case of unilateral agreement and to the competent authority in India, in case of bilateral or multilateral agreement, mentioning therein his findings as regards compliance by the assessee with terms of the agreement.

(4) The Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation) shall forward the report to the Board in a case where there is finding of failure on part of assessee to comply with terms of agreement and cancellation of the agreement is required.

(5) The compliance audit report shall be furnished by the Transfer Pricing Officer within six months from the end of the month in which the Annual Compliance Report referred to in rule 10-O is received by the Transfer Pricing Officer.

(6) The regular audit of the covered transactions shall not be undertaken by the Transfer Pricing Officer if an agreement has been entered into under rule 10L except where the agreement has been cancelled under rule 10R.

Revision of an agreement.(RULE-10Q)

10Q. (1) An agreement, subsequent to it having been entered into, may be revised by the Board, if, —

- (a) there is a change in critical assumptions or failure to meet a condition subject to which the agreement has been entered into;*
- (b) there is a change in law that modifies any matter covered by the agreement but is not of the nature which renders the agreement to be non-binding ; or*
- (c) there is a request from competent authority in the other country requesting revision of agreement, in case of bilateral or multilateral agreement.*

(2) An agreement may be revised by the Board either suo motu or on request of the assessee or the competent authority in India or the Director General of Income-tax (International Taxation).

(3) Except when the agreement is proposed to be revised on the request of the assessee, the agreement shall not be revised unless an opportunity of being heard has been provided to the assessee and the assessee is in agreement with the proposed revision.

(4) In case the assessee is not in agreement with the proposed revision the agreement may be cancelled in accordance with rule 10R.

(5) In case the Board is not in agreement with the request of the assessee for revision of the agreement, the Board shall reject the request in writing giving reason for such rejection.

(6) For the purpose of arriving at the agreement for the proposed revision, the procedure provided in rule 10L may be followed so far as they apply.

(7) The revised agreement shall include the date till which the original agreement is to apply and the date from which the revised agreement is to apply.

Cancellation of an agreement .(RULE-10R)

10R . (1) An agreement shall be cancelled by the Board for any of the following reasons:

- (i) the compliance audit referred to in rule 10P has resulted in the finding of failure on the part of the assessee to comply with the terms of the agreement;*
- (ii) the assessee has failed to file the annual compliance report in time;*

- (iii) *the annual compliance report furnished by the assessee contains material errors; or*
- (iv) *the agreement is to be cancelled under sub-rule (4) of rule 10Q¹[or sub-rule (7) of rule 10RA].*

(2) The Board shall give an opportunity of being heard to the assessee, before proceeding to cancel an application.

(3) The competent authority in India shall communicate with the competent authority in the other country or countries and provide reason for the proposed cancellation of the agreement in case of bilateral or multilateral agreement.

(4) The order of cancellation of the agreement shall be in writing and shall provide reasons for cancellation and for non-acceptance of assessee's submission, if any.

(5) The order of cancellation shall also specify the effective date of cancellation of the agreement, where applicable.

(6) The order under the Act, declaring the agreement as void ab initio, on account of fraud or misrepresentation of facts, shall be in writing and shall provide reason for such declaration and for non-acceptance of assessee's submission, if any.

(7) The order of cancellation shall be intimated to the Assessing Officer and the Transfer Pricing Officer, having jurisdiction over the assessee.

Renewing an agreement.(RULE-10S)

10S. Request for renewal of an agreement may be made as a new application for agreement, using the same procedure as outlined in these rules except pre-filing consultation as referred to in rule 10H.

Miscellaneous.(RULE-10T)

10T. (1) Mere filing of an application for an agreement under these rules shall not prevent the operation of Chapter X of the Act for determination of arms' length price under that Chapter till the agreement is entered into.

(2) The negotiation between the competent authority in India and the competent authority in the other country or countries, in case of bilateral or multilateral agreement, shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the tax treaty between India and the other country or countries

Procedure to deal with requests for bilateral or multilateral advance pricing agreements.(RULE-44GA)

44GA. (1) Where a person has made request for a bilateral or multilateral advance pricing agreement in an application filed in Form No. 3CED in accordance with rule 10-I, the request shall be dealt with subject to provisions of this rule.

(2) The process for bilateral or multilateral advance pricing agreement shall not be initiated unless the associated enterprise situated outside India has initiated process of advance pricing agreement with the competent authority in the other country.

(3) The competent authority in India shall, on intimation of request of the applicant for a bilateral or multilateral agreement, consult and ascertain willingness of the competent authority in other country or countries, as the case may be, for initiation of negotiation for this purpose.

(4) In case of willingness of the competent authority in other country or countries, as the case may be, the competent authority in India shall enter into negotiation in this behalf and endeavour to reach a set of terms which are acceptable to the competent authority in India and the competent authority in the other country or countries, as the case may be.

(5) In case of an agreement after consultation, the competent authority in India shall formalise a mutual agreement procedure arrangement with the competent authority in other country or countries, as the case may be, and intimate the same to the applicant.

(6) In case of failure to reach agreement on such terms as are mutually acceptable to parties mentioned in sub-rule (4), the applicant shall be informed of the failure to reach an agreement with the competent authority in other country or countries.

(7) The applicant shall not be entitled to be part of discussion between competent authority in India and the competent authority in the other country or countries, as the case may be; however the applicant can communicate or meet the competent authority in India for the purpose of entering into an advance pricing agreement.

(8) The applicant shall convey acceptance or otherwise of the agreement within thirty days of it being communicated.

(9) The applicant, in case the agreement is not acceptable may at its option continue with process of entering into an advance pricing agreement without benefit of mutual agreement process or withdraw application in accordance with rule 10J.

Roll Back of the Agreement.(RULE-10MA)

10MA. (1) Subject to the provisions of this rule, the agreement may provide for determining the arm's length price or specify the manner in which arm's length price shall be determined in relation to the international transaction entered into by the person during the rollback year (hereinafter referred to as "rollback provision").

(2) The agreement shall contain rollback provision in respect of an international transaction subject to the following, namely:—

- (i) the international transaction is same as the international transaction to which the agreement (other than the rollback provision) applies;*
- (ii) the return of income for the relevant rollback year has been or is furnished by the applicant before the due date specified in Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139;*
- (iii) the report in respect of the international transaction had been furnished in accordance with section 92E;*
- (iv) the applicability of rollback provision, in respect of an international transaction, has been requested by the applicant for all the rollback years in which the said international transaction has been undertaken by the applicant; and*
- (v) the applicant has made an application seeking rollback in Form 3CEDA in accordance with sub-rule (5);*

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (2), rollback provision shall not be provided in respect of an international transaction for a rollback year, if,—

(i) the determination of arm's length price of the said international transaction for the said year has been subject matter of an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal has passed an order disposing of such appeal at any time before signing of the agreement; or

(ii) the application of rollback provision has the effect of reducing the total income or increasing the loss, as the case may be, of the applicant as declared in the return of income of the said year.

(4) Where the rollback provision specifies the manner in which arm's length price shall be determined in relation to an international transaction undertaken in any rollback year then such manner shall be the same as the manner which has been agreed to be provided for determination of arm's length price of the same international transaction to be undertaken in any previous year to which the agreement applies, not being a rollback year.

*(5) The applicant may, if he desires to enter into an agreement with rollback provision, furnish along with the application, the request for the same in **Form No. 3 CEDA** (Application for rollback of an Advance Pricing Agreement) with proof of payment of an additional fee of 5 lakh rupees:*

Provided that in a case where an application has been filed on or before the 31st day of March, 2015, Form No.3CEDA along with proof of payment of additional fee may be filed at any time on or before the 30th day of June, 2015 or the date of entering into the agreement whichever is earlier:]

Provided further that in a case where an agreement has been entered into on or before the 31st day of March, 2015, Form No.3CEDA along with proof of payment of additional fee may be filed at any time on or before the 30th day of June, 2015 and, notwithstanding anything contained in rule 10Q, the agreement may be revised to provide for rollback provision in the said agreement in accordance with this rule

Procedure for giving effect to rollback provision of an Agreement.(RULE-10RA)

10RA. (1) The effect to the rollback provisions of an agreement shall be given in accordance with this rule.

(2) The applicant shall furnish modified return of income referred to in section 92CD in respect of a rollback year to which the agreement applies along with the proof of payment of any additional tax arising as a consequence of and computed in accordance with the rollback provision.

(3) The modified return referred to in sub-rule(2) shall be furnished along with the modified return to be furnished in respect of first of the previous years for which the agreement has been requested for in the application.

(4) If any appeal filed by the applicant is pending before the Commissioner (Appeals), Appellate Tribunal or the High Court for a rollback year, on the issue which is the subject matter of the rollback provision for that year, the said appeal to the extent of the subject covered under the agreement shall be withdrawn by the applicant before furnishing the modified return for the said year.

(5) If any appeal filed by the Assessing Officer or the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner is pending before the Appellate Tribunal or the High Court for a rollback year, on the issue which is subject matter of the rollback provision for that year, the said appeal to the extent of the subject covered under the agreement shall be withdrawn by the Assessing Officer or the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner, as the case may be, within three months of filing of modified return by the applicant.

(6) The applicant, the Assessing Officer or the Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner, shall inform the Dispute Resolution Panel or the Commissioner (Appeals) or the Appellate Tribunal or the High Court, as the case may be, the fact of an agreement containing rollback provision having been entered into along with a copy of the same as soon as it is practicable to do so.

(7) In case effect cannot be given to the rollback provision of an agreement in accordance with this rule, for any rollback year to which it applies, on account of failure on the part of applicant, the agreement shall be cancelled.

Effect to advance pricing agreement.(SECTION 92CD)

92CD. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in section 139, where any person has entered into an agreement and prior to the date of entering into the agreement, any return of income has been furnished under the provisions of section 139 for any assessment year relevant to a previous year to which such agreement applies, such person shall furnish, within a period of three months from the end of the month in which the said agreement was entered into, a modified return in accordance with and limited to the agreement.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in this section, all other provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly as if the modified return is a return furnished under section 139.

(3) If the assessment or reassessment proceedings for an assessment year relevant to a previous year to which the agreement applies have been completed before the expiry of period allowed for furnishing of modified return under sub-section (1), the Assessing Officer shall, in a case where modified return is filed in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), proceed to assess or reassess or recompute the total income of the relevant assessment year having regard to and in accordance with the agreement.

(4) Where the assessment or reassessment proceedings for an assessment year relevant to the previous year to which the agreement applies are pending on the date of filing of modified return in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1), the Assessing Officer shall proceed to complete the assessment or reassessment proceedings in accordance with the agreement taking into consideration the modified return so furnished.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 153 or section 153B or section 144C,—

(a) the order of assessment, reassessment or recomputation of total income under sub-section (3) shall be passed within a period of one year from the end of the financial year in which the modified return under sub-section (1) is furnished;

(b) the period of limitation as provided in section 153 or section 153B or section 144C for completion of pending assessment or reassessment proceedings referred to in sub-section (4) shall be extended by a period of twelve months.

(6) For the purposes of this section,—

(i) "agreement" means an agreement referred to in sub-section (1) of section 92CC;

(ii) the assessment or reassessment proceedings for an assessment year shall be deemed to have been completed where—

(a) an assessment or reassessment order has been passed; or

(b) no notice has been issued under sub-section (2) of section 143 till the expiry of the limitation period provided under the said section.

Circular No. 10/2015 DATED 10.06.2015

Subject: Clarifications on Rollback Provisions of Advance Pricing Agreement Scheme

The Advance Pricing Agreement provisions were introduced in 2012 through insertion of sections 92CC and 92CD in the Income-tax Act, 1961 by the Finance Act, 2012. Subsequently, the Advance Pricing Agreement Scheme was notified vide S.O. 2005 (E), dated 30/8/2012, thereby inserting Rules 10F to 10T and Rule 44GA in the Income-tax Rules, 1962.

2. Rollback provisions in the APA Scheme were introduced through subsection (9A) inserted in section 92CC by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014 and the relevant rules, namely, Rules 10MA and 10RA, have been notified recently vide S.O. 758(E) dated 14th March, 2015 and S.O. 915(E) dated 1st April, 2015. Subsequent to the notification of the rules, requests for clarification regarding certain issues have been received in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. In order to clarify such issues, the Board has decided to adopt a Question and Answer format and the clarifications are hereby provided as below:

Q.1 Under rule 10 MA(2)(ii) there is a condition that the return of income for the relevant roll back year has been or is furnished by the applicant before the due date specified in Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Income tax Act (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'). It is not clear as to whether applicants who have filed returns under section 139(4) or 139(5) of the Act would be eligible for roll back.

Answer: The return of income under section 139(5) of the Act can be filed only when a return under section 139(1) has already been filed. Therefore, the return of income filed under section 139(5) of the Act, replaces the original return of income filed under section 139(1) of the Act. Hence, if there is a return which is filed under section 139(5) of the Act to revise the original return filed before the due date specified in Explanation 2 to sub-section (1) of section 139, the applicant would be entitled for rollback on this revised return of income.

However, rollback provisions will not be available in case of a return of income filed under section 139(4) because it is a return which is not filed before the due date.

Q.2 Rule 10MA (2)(i) mandates that the rollback provision shall apply in respect of an international transaction that is same as the international transaction to which the agreement (other than the rollback provision) applies. It is not clear what is the meaning of the word "same". Further, it is not clear whether this restriction also applies to the Functions, Assets, Risks (FAR) analysis.

Answer: The international transaction for which a rollback provision is to be allowed should be the same as the one proposed to be undertaken in the future years and in respect of which the agreement has been reached. There cannot be a situation where rollback is finalised for a transaction which is not covered in the agreement for future years. The term same international transaction implies that the transaction in the rollback year has to be of same nature and undertaken with the same associated enterprise(s), as proposed to be undertaken in the future years and in respect of which agreement has been reached. In the context of FAR analysis, the restriction would operate to ensure that rollback provisions would apply only if the FAR analysis of the rollback year does not differ materially from the FAR validated for the purpose of reaching an agreement in respect of international transactions to be undertaken in the future years for which the agreement applies. The word "materially" is generally being defined in the Advance Pricing Agreements being entered into by CBDT. According to this definition, the word "materially" will be interpreted consistently with its ordinary definition and in a manner that a material change of facts and circumstances would be understood as a change which could reasonably have resulted in an agreement with significantly different terms and conditions.

Q.3 Rule 10MA (2)(iv) requires that the application for rollback provision, in respect of an international transaction, has to be made by the applicant for all the rollback years in which the said international transaction has been undertaken by the applicant. Clarification is required as to whether rollback has to be requested for all four years or applicant can choose the years out of the block of four years.

Answer: The applicant does not have the option to choose the years for which it wants to apply for rollback. The applicant has to either apply for all the four years or not apply at all. However, if the covered international transaction(s) did not exist in a rollback year or there is some disqualification in a rollback year, then the applicant can apply for rollback for less than four years. Accordingly, if the covered international transaction(s) were not in existence during any of the rollback years, the applicant can apply for rollback for the remaining years. Similarly, if in any of the rollback years for the covered international transaction(s), the applicant fails the test of the rollback conditions contained in various provisions, then it would be denied the benefit of rollback for that rollback year. However, for other rollback years, it can still apply for rollback.

Q.4 Rule 10 MA(3) states that the rollback provision shall not be provided in respect of an international transaction for a rollback year if the determination of arm's length price of the said international transaction for the said year has been the subject matter of an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal has passed an order disposing of such appeal at any time before signing of the agreement. Further, Rule 10 RA(4) provides that if any appeal filed by the applicant is pending before the Commissioner (Appeals), Appellate Tribunal or the High Court for a rollback year, on the issue which is subject matter of the rollback provision for that year, the said appeal to the extent of the subject covered under the agreement shall be withdrawn by the applicant. There is a need to clarify the phrase "Tribunal has passed an order disposing of such appeal" and on the mismatch, if any, between Rule 10MA(3) and Rule 10RA(4).

Answer: The reason for not allowing rollback for the international transaction for which Appellate Tribunal has passed an order disposing of an appeal is that the ITAT is the final fact finding authority and hence, on factual issues, the matter has already reached finality in that year. However, if the ITAT has not decided the matter and has only set aside the order for fresh consideration of the matter by the lower authorities with full discretion at their disposal, the matter shall not be treated as one having reached finality and hence, benefit of rollback can still be given. There is no mismatch between Rule 10MA(3) and Rule 10RA(4).

Q.5 Rule 10MA(3)(ii) provides that rollback provision shall not be provided in respect of an international transaction for a rollback year if the application of rollback provision has the effect of reducing the total income or increasing the loss, as the case may be, of the applicant as declared in the return of income of the said year. It may be clarified whether the rollback provisions in such situations can be applied in a manner so as to ensure that the returned income or loss is accepted as the final income or loss after applying the rollback provisions.

Answer: It is clarified that in case the terms of rollback provisions contain specific agreement between the Board and the applicant that the agreed determination of ALP or the agreed manner of determination of ALP is subject to the condition that the ALP would get modified to the extent that it does not result in reducing the total income or increasing the total loss, as the case may be, of the applicant as declared in the return of income of the said year, the rollback provisions could be applied. For example, if the declared income is Rs. 100, the income as adjusted by the TPO is Rs. 120, and the application of the rollback provisions results in reducing the income to Rs. 90, then the rollback for that year would be determined in a manner that the declared income Rs. 100 would be treated as the final income for that year.

Q.6 Rule 10RA(7) states that in case effect cannot be given to the rollback provision of an agreement in accordance with this rule, for any rollback year to which it applies, on account of failure on the part of applicant, the agreement shall be cancelled. It is to be clarified as to whether the entire agreement is to be cancelled or only that year for which roll back fails.

Answer: The procedure for giving effect to a rollback provision is laid down in Rule 10RA. Sub-rules (2), (3), (4) and (6) of the Rule specify the actions to be taken by the applicant in order that effect may be given to the rollback provision. If the applicant does not carry out such actions for any of the rollback years, the entire agreement shall be cancelled. This is because the rollback provision has been introduced for the benefit of the applicant and is applicable at its option. Accordingly, if the rollback provision cannot be given effect to for any of the rollback years on account of the applicant not taking the actions specified in sub-rules (2), (3), (4) or (6), the entire agreement gets vitiated and will have to be cancelled.

Q.7 If there is a Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) application already pending for a rollback year, what would be the stand of the APA authorities? Further, what would be the view of the APA Authorities if MAP has already been concluded for a rollback year?

Answer: If MAP has been already concluded for any of the international transactions in any of the rollback year under APA, rollback provisions would not be allowed for those international transactions for that year but could be allowed for other years or for other international transactions for that year, subject to fulfilment of specified conditions in Rules 10MA and 10RA. However, if MAP request is pending for any of the rollback year under APA, upon the option exercised by the applicant, either MAP or application for roll back shall be proceeded with for such year.

Q.8 Rule 10MA(1) provides that the agreement may provide for determining ALP or manner of determination of ALP. However, Rule 10MA(4) only specifies that the manner of determination of ALP should be the same as in the APA term. Does that mean the ALP could be different?

Answer: Yes, the ALP could be different for different years. However, the manner of determination of ALP (including choice of Method, comparability analysis and Tested Party) would be same.

Q.9 Will there be compliance audit for roll back? Would critical assumptions have to be validated during compliance audit?

Answer: Since rollback provisions are for past years, ALP for the rollback years would be agreed after full examination of all the facts, including validation of critical assumptions. Hence, compliance audit for the rollback years would primarily be to check if the agreed price or methodology has been applied in the modified return.

Q.10 Whether applicant has an option to withdraw its rollback application? Can the applicant accept the rollback results without accepting the APA for the future years?

Answer: The applicant has an option to withdraw its roll back application even while maintaining the APA application for the future years. However, it is not possible to accept the rollback results without accepting the APA for the future years. It may also be noted that the fee specified in Rule 10MA(5) shall not be refunded even where a rollback application is withdrawn.

Q.11 For already concluded APAs, will new APAs be signed for rollback or earlier APAs could be revised?

Answer: The second proviso to Rule 10MA(5) provides for revision of APAs already concluded to include rollback provisions.

Q.12 For already concluded APAs, where the modified return has already been filed for the first year of the APA term, how will the time-limit for filing modified return for rollback years be determined?

Answer: The time to file modified return for rollback years will start from the date of signing the revised APA incorporating the rollback provisions.

Q.13 In case of merger of companies, where one or more of those companies are APA applicants, how would the rollback provisions be allowed and to which company or companies would it be allowed?

Answer: The agreement is between the Board and a person. The principle to be followed in case of merger is that the person (company) who makes the APA application would only be entitled to enter into the agreement and be entitled for the rollback provisions in respect of international transactions undertaken by it in rollback years. Other persons (companies) who have merged with this person (company) would not be eligible for the rollback provisions.

To illustrate, if A, B and C merge to form C and C is the APA applicant, then the agreement can only be entered into with C and only C would be eligible for the rollback provisions. A and B would not be eligible for the rollback provisions. To illustrate further, if A and B merge to form a new company C and C is the APA applicant, then nobody would be eligible for rollback provisions.

Q.14 In case of a demerger of an APA applicant or signatory into two or more companies (persons), who would be eligible for the rollback provisions?

Answer: The same principle as mentioned in the previous answer, i.e., the person (company) who makes an APA application or enters into an APA would only be entitled for the rollback provisions, would continue to apply. To illustrate, if A has applied for or entered into an APA and, subsequently, demerges into A and B, then only A will be eligible for rollback for international transactions covered under the APA. As B was not in existence in rollback years, availing or grant of rollback to B does not arise.

RTP M-15

“In the Indian context, Advance Pricing Agreements entered into for determining arm’s length price in relation to an international transaction is valid only for a period, not exceeding 5 years, prospective to the date of agreement and cannot be applied in respect of prior period transactions” – Discuss the correctness or otherwise of this statement.

The statement is not correct.

Under section 92CC, the CBDT may, with the approval of the Central Government, enter into an advance pricing agreement with any person for determining the Arm’s Length Price or specifying the manner in which the arm’s length price is to be determined in relation to an international transaction to be entered into by that person.

The agreement entered into is valid for a period, not exceeding five previous years, as may be mentioned in the agreement. Once the agreement is entered into, the arm’s length price of the international transaction, which is subject matter of the advance pricing agreement, would be determined in accordance with such an advance pricing agreement, except where there is a change in law or facts having a bearing on the agreement so entered.

In order to reduce current pending as well as future litigation in respect of the transfer pricing matters, sub-section (9A) has been inserted in section 92CC by the Finance (No.2) Act, 2014 to provide roll back mechanism in the advance pricing agreement scheme.

The “roll back” provisions refer to the applicability of the methodology of determination of arm’s length in relation to the international transactions which have already been entered into in a period prior to the period covered under an advance pricing agreement.

Accordingly, the advance pricing agreement may, subject to such prescribed conditions, procedure and manner, provide for determining the arm’s length price or for specifying the manner in which arm’s length price is to be determined in relation to an international transaction entered into by a person during any period not exceeding four previous years preceding the first of the previous years for which the advance pricing agreement applies in respect of the international transaction.

Maintenance and keeping of information and document by persons entering into an international transaction or specified domestic transaction.(SECTION 92D)

92D. (1) Every person who has entered into an international transaction or specified domestic transaction shall keep and maintain such information and document in respect thereof, as may be prescribed(**RULE -10D**)

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in sub-section (1), the Board may prescribe the period for which the information and document shall be kept and maintained under that sub-section.

(3) The Assessing Officer or the Commissioner (Appeals) may, in the course of any proceeding under this Act, require any person who has entered into an international transaction or specified domestic transaction to furnish any information or document in respect thereof, as may be prescribed under sub-section (1), within a period of **thirty** days from the date of receipt of a notice issued in this regard :

Provided that the Assessing Officer or the Commissioner (Appeals) may, on an application made by such person, extend the period of thirty days by a further period not exceeding thirty days.

Information and documents to be kept and maintained under section 92D . – RULE-10D

10D . (1) Every person who has entered into an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* shall keep and maintain the following information and documents, namely:—

- (a) a description of the ownership structure of the assessee enterprise with details of shares or other ownership interest held therein by other enterprises;
- (b) a profile of the multinational group of which the assessee enterprise is a part along with the name, address, legal status and country of tax residence of each of the enterprises comprised in the group with whom international transactions *or specified domestic transactions, as the case may be*, have been entered into by the assessee, and ownership linkages among them;
- (c) a broad description of the business of the assessee and the industry in which the assessee operates, and of the business of the associated enterprises with whom the assessee has transacted;
- (d) the nature and terms (including prices) of international transactions^{56b} *[or specified domestic transactions]* entered into with each associated enterprise, details of property transferred or services provided and the quantum and the value of each such transaction

or class of such transaction;

- (e) a description of the functions performed, risks assumed and assets employed or to be employed by the assessee and by the associated enterprises involved in the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction*;
- (f) a record of the economic and market analyses, forecasts, budgets or any other financial estimates prepared by the assessee for the business as a whole and for each division or product separately, which may have a bearing on the international transactions *or the specified domestic transactions* entered into by the assessee;
- (g) a record of uncontrolled transactions taken into account for analysing their comparability with the international transactions *or the specified domestic transactions* entered into, including a record of the nature, terms and conditions relating to any uncontrolled transaction with third parties which may be of relevance to the pricing of the international transactions *or specified domestic transactions, as the case may be* ;
- (h) a record of the analysis performed to evaluate comparability of uncontrolled transactions with the relevant international transaction *or specified domestic transaction* ;
- (i) a description of the methods considered for determining the arm's length price in relation to each international transaction *or specified domestic transaction* or class of transaction, the method selected as the most appropriate method along with explanations as to why such method was so selected, and how such method was applied in each case;
- (j) a record of the actual working carried out for determining the arm's length price, including details of the comparable data and financial information used in applying the most appropriate method, and adjustments, if any, which were made to account for differences between the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction* and the comparable uncontrolled transactions, or between the enterprises entering into such transactions;
- (k) the assumptions, policies and price negotiations, if any, which have critically affected the determination of the arm's length price;
- (l) details of the adjustments, if any, made to transfer prices to align them with arm's length prices determined under these rules and consequent adjustment made to the total income for tax purposes;
- (m) any other information, data or document, including information or data relating to the associated enterprise, which may be relevant for determination of the arm's length price.

(2) *Nothing contained in sub-rule (1), in so far as it relates to an international transaction, shall* apply in a case where the aggregate value, as recorded in the books of account, of international transactions entered into by the assessee does not exceed one crore rupees :

Provided that the assessee shall be required to substantiate, on the basis of material available with him, that income arising from international transactions entered into by him has been computed in accordance with section 92.

(2A) Nothing contained in sub-rule (1), in so far as it relates to an eligible specified domestic transaction referred to in rule 10THB, shall apply in a case of an eligible assessee referred to in rule 10THA and, the said eligible assessee, shall keep and maintain the following information and documents, namely :—

- (i) a description of the ownership structure of the assessee enterprise with details of shares or other ownership interest held therein by other enterprises;
- (ii) a broad description of the business of the assessee and the industry in which the assessee operates, and of the business of the associated enterprises with whom the assessee has

	transacted;
(iii)	the nature and terms (including prices) of specified domestic transactions entered into with each associated enterprise and the quantum and the value of each such transaction or class of such transaction;
(iv)	a record of proceedings if any before the regulatory commission and orders of such commission relating to the specified domestic transaction;
(v)	a record of the actual working carried out for determining the transfer price of the specified domestic transaction;
(vi)	the assumptions, policies and price negotiations, if any, which have critically affected the determination of the transfer price;
(vii)	any other information, data or document, including information or data relating to the associated enterprise, which may be relevant for determination of the transfer price."

(3) The information specified in *sub-rules (1) and (2A)* shall be supported by authentic documents, which may include the following:

- (a) official publications, reports, studies and data bases from the Government of the country of residence of the associated enterprise, or of any other country;
- (b) reports of market research studies carried out and technical publications brought out by institutions of national or international repute;
- (c) price publications including stock exchange and commodity market quotations;
- (d) published accounts and financial statements relating to the business affairs of the associated enterprises;
- (e) agreements and contracts entered into with associated enterprises or with unrelated enterprises in respect of transactions similar to the international transactions *or the specified domestic transactions, as the case may be*;
- (f) letters and other correspondence documenting any terms negotiated between the assessee and the associated enterprise;
- (g) documents normally issued in connection with various transactions under the accounting practices followed.

(4) The information and documents specified under *sub-rules (1), (2) and (2A)*, should, as far as possible, be contemporaneous and should exist latest by the specified date referred to in clause (iv) of section 92F:

Provided that where an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* continues to have effect over more than one previous year, fresh documentation need not be maintained separately in respect of each previous year, unless there is any significant change in the nature or terms of the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction, as the case may be*], in the assumptions made, or in any other factor which could influence the transfer price, and in the case of such significant change, fresh documentation as may be necessary under *sub-rules (1), (2) and (2A)* shall be maintained bringing out the impact of the change on the pricing of the international transaction *or the specified domestic transaction*.

(5) The information and documents specified in *sub-rules (1), (2) and (2A)* shall be kept and maintained for a period of 8 years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

Report from an accountant to be furnished by persons entering into international transaction or specified domestic transaction.(SECTION 92E)

92E. Every person who has entered into an international transaction or specified domestic transaction during a previous year shall obtain a report from an accountant and furnish such report on or before the specified date in the prescribed form duly signed and verified in the prescribed manner by such accountant and setting forth such particulars as may be prescribed(RULE-10E+3CEB)

Report from an accountant to be furnished under section 92E.(RULE-10E)

10E. The report from an accountant required to be furnished under section 92E by every person who has entered into an international transaction *or a specified domestic transaction* during a previous year shall be in Form No. 3CEB and be verified in the manner indicated therein.

Definitions of certain terms relevant to computation of arm's length price, etc.(SECTION 92F)+(RULE -10A)

92F. In sections 92, 92A, 92B, 92C, 92D and 92E, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(i) "accountant" shall have the same meaning as in the *Explanation* below sub-section (2) of section 288;

(ii) "arm's length price" means a price which is applied or proposed to be applied in a transaction between persons other than associated enterprises, in uncontrolled conditions;

(iii) "enterprise" means a person (including a permanent establishment of such person) who is, or has been, or is proposed to be, engaged in any activity, relating to the production, storage, supply, distribution, acquisition or control of articles or goods, or know-how, patents, copyrights, trade-marks, licences, franchises or any other business or commercial rights of similar nature, or any data, documentation, drawing or specification relating to any patent, invention, model, design, secret formula or process, of which the other enterprise is the owner or in respect of which the other enterprise has exclusive rights, or the provision of services of any kind, or in carrying out any work in pursuance of a contract, or in investment, or providing loan or in the business of acquiring, holding, underwriting or dealing with shares, debentures or other securities of any other body corporate, whether such activity or business is carried on, directly or through one or more of its units or divisions or subsidiaries, or whether such unit or division or subsidiary is located at the same place where the enterprise is located or at a different place or places;

(iiia) "permanent establishment", referred to in clause (iii), includes a fixed place of business through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on;

(iv) "specified date" shall have the same meaning as assigned to "due date" in *Explanation 2* below sub-section (1) of section 139;

(v) "transaction" includes an arrangement, understanding or action in concert,—

(A) whether or not such arrangement, understanding or action is formal or in writing; or

(B) whether or not such arrangement, understanding or action is intended to be enforceable by legal proceeding.

Subject: Revised and Updated Guidance for Implementation of Transfer Pricing Provisions-Regarding

The provisions relating to transfer pricing are contained in Sections 92 to 92F of the Income-tax Act (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act'). These provisions came into force w.e.f. Assessment Year 2002-2003 and have seen a number of amendments over the years, including the insertion of Safe Harbour and Advance Pricing Agreement provisions and the extension of the applicability of transfer pricing provisions to Specified Domestic Transactions.

2. In terms of the provisions, any income arising from an international transaction or specified domestic transaction between two or more associated enterprises shall be computed having regard to the Arm's Length Price. Instruction No. 3 was issued on 20th May, 2003 to provide guidance to the Transfer Pricing Officers and the Assessing Officers to operationalise the transfer pricing provisions and to have procedural uniformity. Due to a number of legislative, procedural and structural changes carried out over the last few years, Instruction No. 3 of 2003 is being replaced with this Instruction to provide updated and adequate guidance on the transfer pricing provisions pertaining to international transactions.

3. Reference to Transfer Pricing Officer (TPO)

3.1 The power to determine the Arm's Length Price (ALP) in an international transaction is contained in sub-section (3) of Section 92C of the Act. However, Section 92CA of the Act, inter-alia, provides that where the Assessing Officer (AO) considers it necessary or expedient so to do, he may refer the computation of ALP in relation to an international transaction to the Transfer Pricing Officer (TPO). Sub-section (3) of Section 92CA provides that the TPO, after taking into account the material available with him shall, by an order in writing, determine the ALP in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 92C of the Act. Sub-section (4) of Section 92CA provides that on receipt of the order of the TPO, the AO shall proceed to compute the total income of the taxpayer in conformity with the ALP determined by the TPO. Thus, while the determination of ALP, wherever reference is made to him, is required to be done by the TPO under sub-section (3) of Section 92CA read with sub-section (3) of Section 92C, the computation of total income in conformity with the ALP so determined by the TPO is required to be done by the AO under sub-section (4) of Section 92C read with sub-section (4) of Section 92CA of the Act.

3.2 In order to make a reference to the TPO, the AO has to first satisfy himself that the taxpayer has entered into an international transaction with an associated enterprise. One of the sources from which the factual information regarding international transaction can be gathered is Form No. 3CEB filed by the taxpayer, which is in the nature of an accountant's report containing basic details of an international transaction entered into by the taxpayer during the year and the associated enterprise with which such transaction is entered into, the nature of documents maintained and the method followed. Thus, the primary details regarding such international transactions would normally be available in the accountant's report. The AO can arrive at a prima facie belief on the basis of these details whether a reference to the TPO is necessary. No detailed enquiries are needed at this stage and the AO should not embark upon scrutinising the correctness or otherwise of the price of the international transaction at this stage. However, in the following situations, the AO must, as a jurisdictional requirement, record his satisfaction that there is an income or a potential of an income arising and/or being affected on determination of the ALP of an international transaction before he proceeds to determine the ALP under sub-section (3) of Section 92C of the Act or to refer the matter to the TPO to determine the ALP under sub-section (1) of Section 92CA of the Act:

(a) where the taxpayer has not filed the Accountant's report under Section 92E of the Act but international transactions undertaken by it come to the notice of the AO;

(b) where the taxpayer has not declared one or more international transaction in the Accountant's report filed under Section 92E of the Act and the said transaction or transactions come to the notice of the AO; and

(c) where the taxpayer has declared the international transaction or transactions in the Accountant's report filed under Section 92E of the Act but has made certain qualifying remarks to the effect that the said transaction or transactions are not international transactions or do not impact the income of the taxpayer.

In all the above situations, the AO must provide an opportunity of being heard to the taxpayer before recording his satisfaction or otherwise.

3.3 The exercise of finding out whether any income arises and/or is affected or potentially arises and/or is potentially affected by the determination of the ALP of the international transaction would certainly be a factor, in addition to other factors, in determining whether or not it is necessary or expedient to refer the matter to the TPO. In case no objection is raised by the taxpayer to the applicability of Chapter X [Sections 92 to 92F] of the Act, then the prima-facie view of the AO would be sufficient before referring the international transaction to the TPO for determining the ALP. However, where the applicability of Chapter X [Sections 92 to 92F] of the Act to the facts of the taxpayer's case is objected to, the assessee's objection should be considered and specifically dealt with so as to make sufficient compliance with the principles of natural justice.

3.4 Before making a reference to the TPO, the AO has to seek the approval of the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner as provided in the Act. The provisions of Section 92CA of the Act, inter-alia, refer to the international transaction. Hence, all international transactions, in relation to which a reference to the TPO is considered necessary, have to be explicitly mentioned in the letter through which the reference is being made.

3.5 Since transfer pricing cases are now being selected for scrutiny on the basis of risk parameters, there is no requirement of selecting a transfer pricing case for scrutiny on the basis of the value of the international transaction. Consequently, there would be no requirement of referring an international transaction to the TPO for determination of its ALP merely because the value of the international transaction is above a particular limit. In particular, where a case has been selected for scrutiny only on non TP issues and the case also involves international transactions with AEs, the case shall not be referred to the TPO irrespective of the value of the international transaction or aggregate value of all international transactions. The only exception to this would be a case selected for scrutiny on non-TP parameters where the AO comes to know that the taxpayer has entered into international transaction or transactions but the taxpayer has either not filed the Accountant's report under Section 92E or has not disclosed the said international transaction or transactions in the Accountant's report filed. In such exceptional situations, the AO may refer the matter to the TPO after providing an opportunity of being heard to the taxpayer.

3.6 Since the case will be selected for scrutiny before making the reference to the TPO, the AO may proceed to examine other aspects of the case during the pendency of assessment proceedings but must wait for the report/order of the TPO on the value of international transactions before making final assessment.

4. Role of Transfer Pricing Officer

4.1 The role of the TPO begins after a reference is received from the AO. In terms of Section 92CA of the Act, this role is limited to the determination of the ALP in relation to international transaction(s) referred to him by the AO. However, if any other international transaction comes to the notice of the TPO during the course of the proceedings before him, then he is empowered to determine the ALP of such other international transactions also by virtue of sub-sections (2A) and (2B) of Section 92CA of the Act. The transfer price has to be determined by the TPO in terms of Section 92C of the Act. The price has to be determined by using any one of the methods stipulated in sub-section (1) of Section 92C and by applying the most appropriate method referred to in sub-section (2) thereof. There may be occasions where application of the most appropriate method provides results which are different but equally reliable. In all such cases, further scrutiny may be necessary to evaluate the appropriateness of the method, the correctness of the data, weight given to various factors and so on. The selection of the most appropriate method will depend upon the facts of the case and the factors mentioned in rules

contained in Rule 10C. The TPO, after taking into account all relevant facts and data available to him, shall determine the ALP and pass a speaking order. The TPO, being an Additional/ Joint CIT, shall obtain the approval of the jurisdictional CIT (Transfer Pricing) before passing the order. On the other hand, the TPO, being a Deputy/Assistant CIT, shall obtain the approval of the jurisdictional Additional/ Joint CIT before passing the order. The jurisdictional CIT (TP) should assign a limited number of important and complex cases, not exceeding 50, to the Additional/ Joint CsiT (TPOs) working in the same jurisdiction. For the selection of such important and complex cases by the CsiT(TP), the concerned CCsiT (International Taxation) shall frame appropriate guidelines.

4.2 The order passed by the TPO should contain details of the data used, reasons for arriving at a certain price and the applicability of methods. It may be emphasised that the application of method including the application of the most appropriate method, the data used, factors governing the applicability of respective methods, computation of price under a given method will all be subjected to judicial scrutiny. It is, therefore, necessary that the order of the TPO contains adequate reasons on all these counts. Copies of the documents or the relevant data used in arriving at the arm's length price should be made available to the AO for his records and use at subsequent stages of appellate or penal proceedings.

4.3 In addition to the above, the TPO is required to carry out the Compliance Audit of the Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) entered into by the Board and the taxpayers in accordance with Rule 10 P of the Income-tax Rules.

4.4 The TPO is also required to play an important role in respect of Safe Harbour provisions. Whenever a reference is made to the TP O under sub rule (4) or sub-rule (10) of Rule 10 TE of the Income-tax Rules, the TPO has to carefully examine all the facts and circumstances of the taxpayer's exercise of an option for Safe Harbour and pass an order in writing as mandated in sub-rule (6) or sub-rule (11) of the said Rule, respectively.

5. Role of the AO after Determination of ALP

Under sub-section (4) of Section 92C of the Act, the AO has to compute the total income of the assessee having regard to the ALP determined by him under sub-section (3) of the same Section. Where the determination of ALP is done by the TPO under sub-section (3) of Section 92CA of the Act, the AO has to compute the total income of the assessee under sub-section (4) of Section 92C (read with sub-section (4) of Section 92CA) in conformity with the ALP so determined by the TPO.

6. Maintenance of Data Base

It is to be ensured by the CIT (Transfer Pricing) that the references received from the AOs by the TPOs in his jurisdiction are dealt with expeditiously and accurate record of all events connected with the whole process of determination of ALP is maintained. This record is to be maintained by each TPO in the format enclosed as **Annexure** – to this Instruction. This format will serve as an important database for future action and also help in bringing about uniformity in the determination of the ALP in identical or substantially identical cases. The CsiT (TP) must ensure that the separate data maintained by all TPOs under their jurisdiction are consolidated into one report for the entire charge after the completion of each transfer pricing audit cycle

7. Applicability

The above guidance is applicable only to transfer pricing provisions in respect of international transactions. Similar guidance in respect of transfer pricing provisions pertaining to specified domestic transactions are under consideration of the CBDT. Till such time the guidance pertaining to specified domestic transactions is not issued, paragraph 3.5 of this Instruction shall apply to the effect that where a case has been selected for scrutiny on non-TP parameters and the case also involves specified domestic transactions with AEs , the case shall not be referred to the TPO irrespective of the value of the specified domestic transaction or aggregate value of all specified domestic transactions. The only exception to this would be a case selected for scrutiny on non-TP parameters where the AO comes to know that the taxpayer has entered into specified domestic transaction or transactions but the taxpayer has either not filed the

Accountant's report under Section 92E of the Act or has not disclosed the said specified domestic transaction or transactions in the Accountant's report filed. In such exceptional situations, the AO may refer the matter to the TPO after providing an opportunity of being heard to the taxpayer.

8. This Instruction issues under Section 119 of the Act and supersedes Instruction No.3 of 2003 with immediate effect.

Special measures in respect of transactions with persons located in notified jurisdictional area.(SECTION 94A)

94A. (1) The Central Government may, having regard to the lack of effective exchange of information with any country or territory outside India, specify by notification in the Official Gazette such country or territory as a notified jurisdictional area in relation to transactions entered into by any assessee.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, if an assessee enters into a transaction where one of the parties to the transaction is a person located in a notified jurisdictional area, then—

(i) all the parties to the transaction shall be deemed to be associated enterprises within the meaning of section 92A;

(ii) any transaction in the nature of purchase, sale or lease of tangible or intangible property or provision of service or lending or borrowing money or any other transaction having a bearing on the profits, income, losses or assets of the assessee including a mutual agreement or arrangement for allocation or apportionment of, or any contribution to, any cost or expense incurred or to be incurred in connection with a benefit, service or facility provided or to be provided by or to the assessee shall be deemed to be an international transaction within the meaning of section 92B,

and the provisions of sections 92, 92A, 92B, 92C [except the second proviso to sub-section (2)], 92CA, 92CB, 92D, 92E and 92F shall apply accordingly.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, no deduction,—

(a) in respect of any payment made to any financial institution located in a notified jurisdictional area shall be allowed under this Act, unless the assessee furnishes an authorisation in the prescribed form authorising the Board or any other income-tax authority acting on its behalf to seek relevant information from the said financial institution on behalf of such assessee; and

(b) in respect of any other expenditure or allowance (including depreciation) arising from the transaction with a person located in a notified jurisdictional area shall be allowed under any other provision of this Act, unless the assessee maintains such other documents and furnishes such information as may be prescribed, in this behalf.

(4) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, where, in any previous year, the assessee has received or credited any sum from any person located in a notified jurisdictional area and the assessee does not offer any explanation about the source of the said sum in the hands of such person or in the hands of the beneficial owner (if such person is not the beneficial owner of the said sum) or the explanation offered by the assessee, in the opinion of the Assessing Officer, is not satisfactory, then, such sum shall be deemed to be the income of the assessee for that previous year.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, where any person located in a notified jurisdictional area is entitled to receive any sum or income or amount on which

tax is deductible under **Chapter XVII-B**, the tax shall be deducted at the **highest** of the following rates, namely:—

(a) at the rate or rates in force;

(b) at the rate specified in the relevant provisions of this Act;

(c) at the rate of 30 per cent.

(6) In this section,—

(i) "person located in a notified jurisdictional area" shall include,—

(a) a person who is resident of the notified jurisdictional area;

(b) a person, not being an individual, which is established in the notified jurisdictional area; or

(c) a permanent establishment of a person not falling in sub-clause (a) or sub-clause (b), in the notified jurisdictional area;

(ii) "permanent establishment" shall have the same meaning as defined in clause (iiia) of section 92F;

(iii) "transaction" shall have the same meaning as defined in clause (v) of section 92F.

Furnishing of authorisation and maintenance of documents etc. for the purposes of section 94A.(RULE-21AC)

21AC. (1) *For the purposes of clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 94A, the authorisation to be submitted by the assessee, shall be in Form No. 10FC.*

(2) *The assessee shall cause the first copy of the duly filled Form No. 10FC to be deposited with or transmitted to the financial institution referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (3) of section 94A.*

(3) *The second copy of the Form No. 10FC along with the evidence of the first copy of said Form having been deposited or transmitted to the financial institution shall be submitted by the assessee to the Assessing Officer having jurisdiction over him.*

(4) *For the purpose of ensuring that the authorisation in Form No. 10FC is legally enforceable, the assessee shall take all necessary steps as are required under any law for the time being in force in India or outside India.*

(5) *For the purposes of clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 94A, the assessee who has entered into a transaction with a person located in a notified jurisdictional area (hereinafter referred to as the specified person) shall, in addition to information and documents referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 10D, keep and maintain the following information and documents, namely:—*

(a) *a description of the ownership structure of the specified person, including name and address of individuals or other entities, whether located in the notified jurisdictional area or outside, having directly or indirectly more than ten per cent shareholding or ownership interests;*

(b) *a profile of the multinational group of which the specified person is a part along with the name, address, legal status and country of tax residence of each of the enterprises comprised in the group with whom the assessee has entered into a transaction, and*

ownership linkage among them;

- (c) a broad description of the business of the specified person and the industry it operates in;*
- (d) any other information, data or document, which may be relevant for the transaction with the specified person.*

(6) The information and documents specified in sub-rule (5) shall be for the period upto the due date of filing of return of income under sub-section (1) of section 139.

(7) The information and documents specified in sub-rule (5) shall be kept and maintained for a period of eight years from the end of the relevant assessment year.

10FC -Authorisation for claiming deduction in respect of any payment made to any financial institution located in a notified jurisdictional area

RTP N-15+N-12:- Mr. Manas, a non-resident individual, is due to receive interest of Rs. 6,25,000 in March 2015 from a notified infrastructure debt fund eligible for exemption under section 10(47). He incurred expenditure amounting to Rs.32,000 for earning such income. Assuming that Mr. Manas is a resident of a Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA), discuss the tax implications in his hands and the applicability of provisions relating to deduction of tax at source from such interest.

The interest income received by Mr. Manas, a non-resident, from a notified infrastructure debt fund would be subject to a concessional tax rate of 5% under section 115A on the gross amount of such interest income. Therefore, the tax liability of Mr. Manas in respect of such income would be Rs. 32,188 (being 5% of Rs.6,25,000 plus education cess@2% and secondary and higher education cess@1%).

Under section 194LB, tax is deductible @5% on interest paid by such fund to a non-resident. However, since Mr. Manas is a resident of a Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA), tax would be deductible@30% as per section 94A, and not@ 5% specified under section 194LB. This is on account of the provisions of section 94A(5), which provides that "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provision of this Act, where a person located in a NJA is entitled to receive any sum or income or amount on which tax is deductible under Chapter XVII-B, the tax shall be deducted at the highest of the following rates, namely –

- (a) at the rate or rates in force;
- (b) at the rate specified in the relevant provision of the Act;
- (c) at the rate of thirty per cent.

RTP M-14

Godavari Ltd., an Indian company, exports dry fruits to Karyotis Inc for an amount of Rs.51 lacs. Karyotis Inc is located in a Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA).

Godavari Ltd. charges Rs.52 lacs and Rs.53 lacs for sale of similar goods to Danube Inc and Mississippi Inc, respectively, which are not located in a NJA and both of them, are not associated enterprises of Godavari Ltd.

If the permissible variation notified by Central Government for such class of international transactions is 3% of the transaction price, state the tax implications under section 94A in respect of the above transaction entered into by Godavari Ltd. with Karyotis Inc.

As per section 94A, in case an assessee enters into any transaction where one of the parties thereto is located in the Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA) then the parties to the transaction shall be treated as associated enterprises and the transaction shall be deemed to be an international transaction.

The transfer pricing provisions would, therefore, be attracted in such a case. However, the benefit of permissible variation between the transfer price and the arm's length price, as notified by the Central Government, shall not be available in such a case.

Since Karyotis Inc. is located in a NJA, the transaction of export of dry fruits by the Indian company, Godavari Ltd., would be deemed to be an international transaction and Karyotis Inc. and Godavari Ltd. would be deemed to be associated enterprises.

Therefore, the provisions of transfer pricing would be attracted in this case.

The prices of Rs.52 lakhs and Rs.53 lakhs charged for sale of similar goods to Danube Inc. and Mississippi Inc., respectively, being independent entities located in a non-NJA country, can be taken into consideration for determining the arm's length price (ALP) under Comparable Uncontrolled Price (CUP) Method.

Since more than one price is determined by the CUP Method, the ALP would be the arithmetical mean of such prices.

Therefore, $ALP = Rs.52,50,000$ i.e., $[(Rs.52,00,000 + Rs.53,00,000)/2]$ Transfer Price = Rs.51,00,000

Since the ALP is more than the transfer price, the ALP of Rs.52,50,000 would be considered for computing the income from the international transaction between Godavari Ltd. and Karyotis Inc. The benefit of permissible variation @ 3% of transfer price in respect of such class of international transactions is not available in respect of this transaction, since one of the parties thereto is located in a NJA.

RTP M-12

Geomatics Ltd., an Indian company, provides technical services to a company, MNC Inc., located in a Notified Jurisdictional Area (NJA) for a consideration of Rs.40 lakhs in January, 2012. It charges Rs.48 lakhs and Rs.52 lakhs for similar services rendered to Alpha Inc. and Beta Inc., respectively, which are not located in a NJA. Alpha Inc. and Beta Inc. are not associated enterprises of Geomatics Ltd.

Assuming that the variation notified by the Central Government for such class of international transactions is 3% of the transaction price, discuss the tax implications under section 94A read with section 92C in respect of the above transaction of provision of technical services by Geomatics Ltd. to MNC Inc.

Since MNC Inc. is located in a notified jurisdictional area (NJA), the transaction of provision of technical services by the Indian company, Geomatics Ltd., would be deemed to be an international transaction and MNC Inc. and Geomatics Ltd. would be deemed to be associated enterprises. Therefore, the provisions of transfer pricing would be attracted in this case.

The prices of Rs.48 lakhs and Rs.52 lakhs charged for similar services from Alpha Inc and Beta Inc, respectively, being independent entities located in non-NJA countries, can be taken into consideration for determining the arm's length price (ALP) under Comparable Uncontrolled Price (CUP) Method.

Since more than one price is determined by the CUP Method, the ALP would be the arithmetical mean of such prices. Therefore, the $ALP = Rs.50,00,000$ i.e., $(48,00,000+52,00,000)/2$ Transfer price = Rs.40,00,000 Since the ALP is more than the transfer price, the ALP of ` 50 lakhs would be considered

as the income arising from the international transaction between Geomatics Ltd. and MNC Inc.

It may be noted that the benefit of permissible variation between the ALP and the transfer price at the rate notified by the Central Government for a particular class of international transaction would not be available where transfer pricing provisions are attracted under section 94A. Therefore, it is not necessary to determine the impact, if any, of such permissible variation.

