

# CBDT issues FY25 interim action plan for tax officers

Aim is to ensure focused efforts on tax collections, faster dispute resolution

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The income tax department has come out with an interim action plan for the financial year 2024-25, which includes the identification of potential cases of prosecution, wherein there is short-payment of TDS, and faster disposal of appeals.

The action plan also stipulates timelines for the approval of refunds, identification of cases where seized assets are due for release and release the same by June 30.

It also called for finalisation of compounding proposals pending as on March 31, 2024, and disposal of at least 150 appeals by June 30.

Priority should be given to disposal of the appeals filed prior to April 1, 2020, followed by disposal of appeals filed after April 1, 2020, it said.

Sandeep Sehgal, partner-tax, AKM Global, said the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has unveiled its interim action plan for FY2024-25, marking a significant stride towards enhancing tax administration efficiency.

Immediate measures have

ILLUSTRATION: AJAY MOHANTY



## CALL FOR ACTION

- ▶ Stipulates timelines for approval of refunds, identification of cases where seized assets are due for release
- ▶ Priority to be given to disposal of the appeals filed prior to April 1, 2020
- ▶ Calls for finalisation of compounding proposals pending as on March 31
- ▶ Also prioritises the resolution of audit objections
- ▶ Stance facilitates timely remedial actions and eases procedural efficiency
- ▶ Plan aligns with govt's goal of enhancing taxpayer confidence and promoting a culture of compliance

been initiated to address grievances through e-Nivaran and CPGRAM platforms, which serve as pivotal mechanisms for grievance redressal.

"Taxpayers are now required to file applications before the assessing officer for pending refunds pertaining to their respective assessments. This proactive approach aims to expedite the refund process, offering considerable relief to taxpayers and fostering a structured framework to bolster tax administration efficiency," Sehgal said.

Furthermore, a critical initiative has been undertaken to expedite the processing of applications for nil/lower TDS

or TCS Certificates under Section 195/197/206C, with a commitment to resolving them within a month of receipt from April 1, 2024. This streamlined procedure empowers taxpayers to better manage their cash flows and navigate the tax filing process with ease.

The plan also prioritises the resolution of audit objections, aiming to settle 50 per cent of major and 75 per cent of minor internal as well as revenue audit objections received by December 31, 2023 and plans to settle them by June 30, 2024.

This proactive stance facilitates timely remedial actions and optimizes procedural efficiency.

"The proactive measures outlined in the action plan underscore CBDT's commitment to revenue generation, while concurrently fostering an environment conducive to ease of compliance. This aligns with the government's overarching goal of enhancing taxpayer confidence and promoting a culture of compliance," Sehgal said.

Nangla Andersen Tax Leader Aravind Srivatsan said the guidelines are aimed at ensuring focused efforts on tax collections, dispute resolution, high-value cases, pending information requests, and updating tax data within the technology portal.