



**JOINT COUNCIL OF ACTION of
INCOME TAX ASSOCIATIONS,
WEST BENGAL**



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Joint Convenors:

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Dated: 14.05.2021.

To
The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax,
West Bengal & Sikkim,
Sir,

Sub: Intervention of the CBDT for combating the emergency situation arising out of outbreak of the 2nd wave of COVID 19 virus induced pandemic -request reg.

Kindly refer to our earlier letter 10.05.2021 in this regard, where-in we had offered our suggestions for helping our colleagues and families to weather the havoc created by the on-going pandemic.

Among our suggestions, there are some which can be acted upon at the regional level, while there are others for which the intervention of the CBDT is necessary. We are again flagging those issues which are required to be immediately taken up with the CBDT, to ensure their early implementation.

- 1 As we have already suggested that the need of the hour is to immediately create infrastructure (using our own facilities) where our employees and their family members can be offered isolation and treatment at par with hospitals. For this negotiation with the locally renowned private hospitals is urgently required. Some of these hospital chains are have headquarters in other regions, e.g. Fortis(Delhi), Apollo Gleneagles(Chennai),Narayana Group(Bengaluru)etc. To approach them, and successfully negotiate with them we can take the help of the Central Covid Management Committee formed under the aegis of the CBDT.
- 2 Some of our top assesses like ITC have handsomely donated to Private hospitals like Medica for creation of new hospital beds. We must ask the CBDT to approach such assesses, so that, we can get support out of their benevolent contribution.
3. It goes without saying that while negotiating with the private Hospitals it must be ensured that our employees and their family members are offered CGHS rates for treatment which will be reimbursed from the Medical Expenses Fund. The CBDT may be requested to provide funds for capital expenditure for developing the basic infrastructure. In this connection your kind attention is drawn to similar benevolent

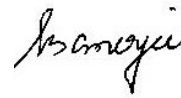
steps taken by our sister organization, CBIC, which is directly transferring funds to their Commissionerates to meet the exigencies (Copies of relevant letters, enclosed)

4. While CBIC has a Welfare Fund and is providing lump sum amounts for treatment of their employees and ex-gratia assistance to the families of employees who have passed away due to this infection. The CBDT has also a fund of Rs.100 crores from VDIS 97 collection). The fund has already been notified in the Income Tax Rules but has not been operationalized due to some objections from the C& AG. The CBDT must be impressed to request the Ministry to relax the rules and immediately operationalize the welfare fund, considering the gravity of the situation. It is also requested that our own Central Board replicates the proactive steps initiated by the CBIC.
5. As we all know that following the eradication of the Small Pox virus, the concept of Quarantine leave was given a decent burial in the 5th CPC recommendations. However, the massive surge of Covid 19 related infections, which is probably the most potent contagion in the recent history, it once again required to revive the Quarantine leave. The CBDT may be requested to approach the DoPT so that the absence during Covid 19 infection or the isolation period for coming into contact with infected persons should be treated as Quarantine Leave.
6. If the regional authority feels that as per the present guidelines of the State Government it is difficult to organize immunization camps within the office premises and staff quarters for the employees and their family members (over the age of 18 years), the Central Covid Management team may be requested to take up the matter and request the Ministry to negotiate with the State Government.

We hope the above suggestions will be immediately escalated to the level of the CBDT for their early intervention.



(Sumit Kumar Bose)
General Secretary,
ITEF, Bengal Circle



(Sayantan Banerjee)
General Secretary,
ITGOA, WB Unit

JOINT CONVENORS

Copy to the Convenors Central JCA with a request to take a similar stand at the National Level.

