

(c) Economic growth is high on the agenda of the Government. Various reforms are being undertaken by the Government in many spheres to improve GDP growth. The key reforms in Government's new term include expansion to all farmers the cash transfer scheme "PM-Kisan" providing an income support of ₹ 6000/- per year, which was earlier limited to farmers with a land holding of less than 2 hectares. Along with this, Government has also launched voluntary pension scheme for small and marginal farmers and small shopkeepers or retail traders. Further to give focused attention to issues of growth, the Government has constituted a five-member cabinet committee on investment and growth chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Earlier measures taken by the Government for growth promotion, *inter-alia*, include historic support and outreach programme for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, expansion and facilitation of MSMEs across the country, liberalization of FDI policy and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax. The Government aims at creating a conducive environment for manufacturing sector by streamlining the existing regulations and processes. 'Make in India' programme has been launched which aims at making India a global hub for manufacturing, research and innovation and an integral part of the global supply chain. Several steps to boost domestic manufacturing are being taken as part of schemes such as 'Startup India', 'Ease of Doing Business', Business Reform Action Plan, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) policy etc.

Implementation of Direct Tax Code

1128. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the demand of Indian industry to bring in Direct Tax Code (DTC) as part of the financial reforms;
- (b) if so, the response of Government to the DTC; and
- (c) the proposed schedule for implementation of the Direct Tax Code in India?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration regarding the "Direct Tax Code". However, the Government had constituted a Task Force to draft a new direct tax law *vide* Office Order in F. No. 370149/230/2017 dated 22.11.2017 under the Convenorship of Shri Arbind Modi, the then Member (Legislation), CBDT with original term of six months for submission of report to the Government which was extended by a period of three months *vide* Office Order of even number dated 22.05.2018. The terms of reference (ToR) being to draft an appropriate direct tax legislation keeping in view:—

- (i) The direct tax system prevalent in various countries;
- (ii) The international best practices;

- (iii) The economic needs for the country; and
- (iv) Any other matter connected thereto.

2. On superannuation of Shri Arbind Modi, the Task Force was reconstituted *vide* Office Order of even number dated 26.11.2018 keeping ToR unchanged with the following Members:—

- (i) Shri Akhilesh Ranjan, Member (Legislation), CBDT-Convener;
- (ii) Shri Girish Ahuja, practicing Chartered Accountant and non-official Director State Bank of India;
- (iii) Shri Rajiv Memani, Chairman and Regional Managing Partner of E&Y;
- (iv) Shri Mukesh Patel, Practicing Tax Advocate, Ahmedabad; and
- (v) Ms. Mansi Kedia, Consultant, ICRIER, New Delhi;
- (vi) Shri G.C. Srivastava, Retd. IRS (1971 Batch) and Advocate.

2.1 The reconstituted Task Force was required to submit the report by 28.02.2019 which was extended initially to 31.05.2019 and later to 31.07.2019.

2.2 Further, Ms Pragya S. Saksena, Principal Commissioner of Income-tax was co-opted as Member of the Task Force *vide* Office Order of even numbered dated 21.12.2018.

3. Furthermore, *vide* Office Order of even number dated 24.06.2019, the ToR of the Task Force has been broadened to include:—

- (i) The faceless and anonymized verification/scrutiny/assessment;
- (ii) The mechanism for system based cross verification of the financial transactions;
- (iii) Reduction in litigation and expeditious disposal of appeals before the CIT (Appeals), ITAT, High Courts and the Supreme Court;
- (iv) Reduction of compliance burden by simplification of procedures; and
- (v) Sharing of information between GST, Customs, CBDT, FIU.

3.1 *Vide* said Office Order dated 24.06.2019 Shri Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser and Shri Ritvik Pandey, Joint Secretary (Revenue) have also been nominated as Members of the Task Force.

3.2 The Task Force is required to submit its report to the Government by 31.07.2019.