

JOINT COUNCIL OF ACTION



INCOME TAX EMPLOYEES FEDERATION & INCOME TAX GAZETTED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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No. JCA/2025-26

Dated, 15th December, 2025

To

**The Chairman,
Central Board of Direct Taxes,
North Block, New Delhi.**

Respected Sir,

Sub: Issues relating to functioning of Project Tarang and availability
of Desktop Computers & peripherals in field offices – Regarding.

Attention is invited to the two important issues outlined above, where we believe your kind intervention is urgently required to ensure optimal functioning of the office.

Project Tarang: Project **Tarang-2**, introduced on 01.04.2022 for a three-year period, was subsequently extended by six months up to 30.09.2025. It has now been informally learnt without any official confirmation that a further extension up to 31.12.2025 may have been granted. However, BSNL/MTNL field authorities have been unable to clarify the current status of the Scheme, creating a prolonged state of uncertainty. This ambiguity is already causing significant operational difficulties for departmental employees who are availing themselves of various services under the Scheme. Bills running into several thousands of rupees are being generated and dispatched, and some employees are even receiving recovery/settlement notices. Further, employees wishing to retain their mobile numbers after superannuation are facing avoidable hurdles in obtaining new SIM cards from BSNL, despite having formally demerged their numbers from Project Tarang. If unresolved, this uncertainty could soon disrupt even regular mobile services.

It is pertinent to note that departmental mobile numbers are registered across numerous Government digital platforms and service portals for OTP-based authentication. Any interruption in these mobile services would directly affect departmental functioning and could also impede employees' ability to access essential personal services, including banking and other digital utilities. Considering the repeated extensions granted to the current Scheme, it is reasonable to expect that a new Scheme will be rolled out shortly. In

this context, it is earnestly requested that the shortcomings of the existing Scheme shall be duly addressed while finalizing the next iteration. While vendor selection will naturally align with Government of India policy, ensuring the quality and reliability of service is critical, as past experience with the current vendor has been far from satisfactory. The scope of services should likewise be **need-based and inclusive**, rather than hierarchy-driven.

In view of the above, the ongoing uncertainty may kindly be resolved at the earliest and the forthcoming Scheme may kindly be designed to reflect **actual operational requirements**, leverage **current technology** and provide equitable coverage to all eligible beneficiaries.

Availability of Desktop Computers and peripherals: As the Department steadily advances toward comprehensive digitization, both in its core functional areas and in all facets of administrative work, the most fundamental requirement is the provision of desktops and peripherals, with configurations fully compliant with Departmental and other Government digital platforms, for every employee. While the initial challenges arising from fund shortages and the introduction of the newly segmented object heads, like ICT and DE, coupled with the digitized requisition process through Google Sheets, created some transitional difficulties, these issues now stand largely resolved. Funds under the ICT head have mostly been released during the current financial year against the requisitions submitted.

However, a new concern has emerged regarding intra-Region fund allocation and prioritization at the Head of Department level. Reports from our members indicate that a disproportionately large share of funds is being directed toward the procurement of high-end computers, often with specifications far exceeding functional requirements, for senior officers and headquarters units. At the same time, officers and staff members in field formations continue to struggle with an inadequate number of systems and peripherals, many of which lack the minimum configurations necessary to support the Department's digital platforms. In the context of the Department's digitization mission, optimal and equitable utilization of ICT and DE funds is imperative. The present pattern of concentration of resources at higher offices, to the detriment of field units, warrants corrective intervention from the highest level.

It is therefore suggested that a structured exercise be undertaken to i) assess the availability and configuration adequacy of computers and peripherals across field offices; and ii) examine utilization patterns of ICT and DE funds during the current financial year. Such an exercise, whether through this mechanism or any alternative framework deemed suitable by the Board, should ultimately aim to ensure that all field offices are digitally prepared and adequately equipped, enabling seamless integration with Departmental processes. This approach will also uphold the principle of optimal utilization of the funds

allotted under these object heads, in line with the larger goal of achieving true end-to-end digitization.

Sir, meaningful and timely resolution of both issues is possible only through intervention at the highest level, and we earnestly request your good self to kindly initiate the necessary steps at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Bhaskar Bhattacharya)



(Rupak Sarkar)

Joint Convenors

Copy for information and necessary action to:

- 1. Member (TPS & R), CBDT**
- 2. Pr. DGIT (Admn. & TPS), CBDT**