



Income Tax Gazetted Officers' Association

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

Respected Sir,

Sub: Requirement for replacement of Departmental Laptops- request regarding

Your kind attention is invited to Point 6 of the Information Technology Procurement, Obsolescence and Disposal Policy: Laptop, issued by CBDT on 10.02.2015 (the extant Laptop Policy of the Department), where **Useful Life** of the Departmental Laptop is defined as ***Four Years from the date of issue after which the laptop should be replaced in the fifth year.*** Now, the Department distributed the laptops last time to the officers at the level of ITO and above from the month of May, 2020 onwards and the process was delayed due to lockdown and other Covid 19 pandemic related restrictions. Therefore, the laptops have already completed or will soon complete their useful life and those are required to be replaced immediately as per the extant Departmental Policy.

At present, it is learnt that only the sanction for less than 500 laptops are available with the office of the ADG (Infrastructure), New Delhi to meet up the requisitions from the PCCsIT (CCA), whereas a good number of ITIs are being promoted to the grade of ITO each month across 18 regions and also, a fresh batch of DR IRS officers is joining the Department every year. Further, we may expect 100% retention of the Departmental laptops by the retiring officers henceforth, as written down value of the distributed laptops have already been reduced to NIL. Also, due to aging, malfunctioning issues tend to crop up in the case of certain laptops. Therefore, Infrastructure Directorate will soon be not in a position to meet up any further requisition from field level. As bulk procurement of laptops completing all formalities is a time-consuming affair, as experienced last time, the newly promoted ITOs/fresh IRS officers posted in Faceless charges or JAO charges will face existential crisis in discharging duties in absence of Departmental laptops.

In this connection, we would further like to bring our long pending demand of providing laptops to the officers of AO and PS cadres to your kind notice, which we have continuously been making since issuance of laptops to the Departmental officers for the first time in 2008. This demand, though endorsed by the Board, has always faced the resistance from the Department of Expenditure (DoE). Even during the last time, in-principle approval of the Hon'ble FM had been accorded for procurement of laptops for all Departmental officers including of AO & PS cadres, but the latter were later excluded in the face of adversity encountered from DoE and IFU.

Since then, functioning in the Department has witnessed a sea change and the Department has embraced digitization wholeheartedly. The Department is on the verge of becoming fully digitized, not just in respect of works relating to administering Direct Tax Acts and Rules, but also for the administrative and secretarial functions. For working on the platforms like e-office, PFMS, GeM, etc. and also for other administrative works, the Administrative Officers now necessitate to be fully equipped with Computers and Peripherals. Departmental Laptop will provide the ease of working along with much desired flexibility to the Administrative Officers in their functioning. In the case of Private Secretaries also, when the officers, to whom they are attached and providing secretarial assistance, are presently working at their own pace with the assistance of Departmental laptop and network, providing Departmental laptops to the PS cadre is a corollary for smooth and effective Departmental functioning.

Income Tax Department is the only Central Government Department, which contributes more than Twenty Lakh Crores to the Government Account. Naturally to achieve such uniqueness, all of its officers, irrespective of designation, have to perform in extra-ordinary fashion and therefore, none of them can be tagged as common cadre, the reason always shown by DoE to deny laptops for AO and PS cadres. Therefore, the Department shall not shy away to assert its unique position and prevail over the DoE and IFU in providing laptops, as there are currently more than adequate reasons available on the basis of Department specific functional requirements to allot laptops to AO & PS cadres of our Department.

In view of the above, it is earnestly requested to your goodself that:

- i) the process of procurement of new Departmental laptops may kindly be initiated at the earliest,
AND
- ii) the allottee base may kindly be broadened to include the officers of AO and PS cadres on the basis of the Departmental functional requirements.

This is for your kind consideration and necessary action.

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,



(Bhaskar Bhattacharya)
Secretary General

Copy for information to:

- i) Member (TPS & R), CBDT, New Delhi
- ii) ADG (Infra), CBDT, New Delhi