



All India Federation of Tax Practitioners

(Direct Tax Representation Committee)
(An Association of Advocates, Chartered Accountants & Tax Practitioners of India)

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Ref. No.

Date: 28.08.2021

Hon'ble Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,
Union Finance Minister
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,
North Block,
New Delhi- 110001

Respected Madam,

Sub: **Request for immediate removal of glitches still being faced on the New portal "E-Filing 2000" for income-tax assessments, income-tax appeals and for Re-registration of charitable entities under section 12A and 80G of the Income-tax Act**

The All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (the Federation, in short) is one of the largest professional bodies of tax practitioners, advocates and chartered accountants - both of direct and indirect taxes. It has been functioning for the last about 45 years and has a membership of over 9000 individuals and about 130 Tax Bar Associations located in 27 out of 29 States of our country.

- The new portal "E-Filing 2000" brought into existence by the Department from 08.06.2021 is still suffering from several glitches in different parts of the country despite your high level meeting for their immediate removal with the Chairperson of the Infosys on the 22nd June, 2021 which was meant for designing and satisfactory working of that portal.
- In the Federation's letter dated 21st July, 2021 addressed to Your Honour, we had raised several specific issues in para-3 regarding the unsatisfactory working of the said portal. You have been very kind to take keen interest in the matter to resolve our difficulties. However, some of the issues have still not been resolved satisfactorily and not only the Revenue is suffering adversely but the taxpayers and tax practitioners are also facing the prospects of penal action for non-timely compliance of the relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act for no fault of theirs. Some unresolved issues in relation to the said E-filing 2.0 portal are as under:-

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- (i) The portal is very slow in its working in several big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai etc.
- (ii) There is no link of the portal with other tax forms nor can a person view the desired form after it is filled in.
- (iii) There is no e-proceeding link showing the relevant information on the basis of which the compliance was made.
- (iv) Re-registration of charitable entities u/s 12A and u/s 80G of the Act have to be done digitally for which, the last date is 31st August, 2021. For this purpose, the portal of the Income-tax Department is still under observation and maintenance. We are informed of several issues on account of which the date of filing would need to be extended as it is virtually impossible to meet the due date of 31st August, 2021.
- (v) The re-registration part of the Form has to be filled online. It was not possible for a long period as there were glitches in its completion. Therefore, a reasonable time should be made available to the charitable trusts to make the required compliance.
- (vi) The functioning of the registration of the Digital Signature Code (DSC) as also its verification has not been satisfactory for the last several days.
- (vii) Under section 140 of the Income-tax Act, the signature can be of any of the Principal Officers of a charitable trust. The portal, however, does not provide for this option in conformity with the requirement of the Act and requires the signature to be only of a trustee or of a managing trustee. All the entities dealing with registration may not be trusts but may be only societies, companies or even associations of persons.
- (viii) There is inordinate delay in getting One Time Password (OTP). By the time we receive the OTP,

the form is rejected by the computer stating that 'OTP is incorrect'.

- (ix) The drafts of the inputs which need to be saved in the system are being saved blank and saved details don't show up on the screen necessitating repetitive handling of the keys for the data.
- (x) The figures of assets and liabilities of the charitable entities are required to be given only where the return of income for the F.Y. 2019-20 is not furnished. However, even in cases where such returns are furnished, an error is generated unless these details are filed again while seeking the use of the Digital Signature Code. Most often, an error appears stating "something went wrong, please try later".

5. The above are some of the errors pointed out by the members of the Federation in the new E-filing 2.0 portal. We, therefore, most humbly request that all the above errors need to be debugged and portal made operational.

6. In view of the numerous difficulties, the due date for filing the returns by 31st August, 2021 may also kindly be extended for at least one month i.e. by 30th September, 2021 We, hope that by that time, the portal will start working satisfactorily.

Thanking you and with our most respectful regards,

Yours *Sincerely*

Sd/-
S.R. Wadhwa, IRS (Retd)

Former Chief Commissioner of Income-tax

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for information and further immediate necessary action.

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