Minutes of the 48th Inter Ministerial Board

The 48th meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Board was held on 23.12.2020 at 3:30 PM over Videoconferencing. The meeting was chaired by Shri Anil Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Representative from Department of Biotechnology, Dr Rajesh Ghangal, Scientist C and Dr Sanjeev Majumdar, Manager, National Research Development Corporation with his team were present.

Sixteen (16) cases for exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act were considered.

1. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about BARIFLO LABS PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP30139, which has developed a water body management system based on Fluid dynamics, IOT, robotics, AI for aqua-farm management. The technical agency recommended that owing to the improvement in agriculture sector and employment generation, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

2. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about CETMIP LLP, DIPP43356 which has developed a product named “Concrete Screed Vibrator” used for vibrating and finishing the concrete surface simultaneously. The technical agency recommended that owing to the scalability and employment generation, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

3. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about TAPITS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP1350 which has developed a platform named “Fingpay” that allows to make payments at retail stores cashless, card-less and mobile less and thereby enables financial inclusion in rural segment with combination of online and offline assisted solutions. The technical agency recommended that owing to the improvement and employment generation, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

4. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about LOONYCORN QUANT MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP29247 which offers specialized and simple e-learning videos on complex technologies like AI, ML, cloud
computing, Block chain, Big data and others. The technical agency recommended that owing to the improvement, wealth creation and employment generation the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

5. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about PRIMARY HEALTHTECH PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP44030 which has developed biomedical based on Nanotechnology named "Magic-Box", the device provides real-time quantitative estimations of the levels of various enzymes that will enable the assessment of the health of the Heart, Thyroid, Kidney, Liver, Pancreas, and Blood at the patient’s site. The technical agency recommended that owing to improvement and scalability, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

6. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about BRIGHTCROP AGRO PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP17999 which has developed an effective supply chain for availability of organic food products and offers training, guidance from experts, effective market linkage to the organic farmers of Assam, Manipur, West Bengal and Maharashtra under the brand name of "Organic Foods Market". The technical agency recommended that owing to the sector significance, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

7. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about SENATLA EV PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP29164 which is involved in manufacturing battery chargers for lead acid and lithium-ion batteries for two-wheeler EV and e-rickshaw. The technical agency recommended that owing to the scalability and employment generation, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

8. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about UZHAVARBUMI AGRO PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP55341 which is involved in establishing direct trade of dairy products between small- scale dairy farmers and consumers and also offers products like ghee, milk, cold pressed oil, and natural honey. The technical agency recommended that owing to the significance of the sector and employment generation, the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and
approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80 IAC of the Income Tax Act.

9. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about AUGMENTED LEARNING PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP41689 which has developed an AI based learning app named Augli that enables students to learn through gamifying experience. The technical agency recommended that owing to the scalability and significance of the sector application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

10. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about KOCO & KOIR EXPORTS PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP 49266 which is involved in developing and exporting coir-based products. The technical agency recommended that owing to the scalability, innovation, and employment generation the application may be approved for income tax exemption. The Board deliberated and accepted the recommendation of the technical agency and approved the application for income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

11. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about INDIHOOD PRIVATE LIMITED DIPP18409 which is a hyperlocal, crowdsourcing tech platform that empowers communities to solve socio economic challenges at population scale by building apps and solutions. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. As per the technical agency, Indihood Private Limited, Visakhapatnam (DIPP18409) incorporated on 12th August 2016 by Mr Lalitesh Kumar Katragada, and others, as per pitchdeck and other documents, the SaaS product of the startup which is crowdsourcing tech platform is performing well and serving for Avanti Finance Limited and few others. While assessing the eligibility conditions for the startup, it has been discovered that the founders own several companies and startups and have formed the new company for availing benefits under startup scheme under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act, as their previous company was formed in 2005, thus not qualifying for the benefits as a startup. The same has been communicated to the startup earlier and in response the startup submitted that the nature of business is different for both the startups, but the background data is being sourced on the credentials of older company and further used in newer startup. Based on abovementioned fact, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board has decided that certificate of eligibility for availing benefits of tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax cannot be issued to the startup Indihood Private Limited, Visakhapatnam.
12. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about MINKVILLE INNOVENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP35921, which is involved development of a digital payment solution called MissCallPay that can help even tribals, illiterates and villagers go cashless without upgrading their skills, and not requiring either smartphone or internet. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act with the comment “Minkville Innoventures Private Limited, Mumbai (DIPP35921) incorporated on 28th September 2017 by Mr Mitesh L Thakker and Ms Dharmishtha M Thakker, and the innovative product of the startup is Miscalpay, which is a missed call-based payment gateway integration system. Mr Thakker has filed patent applications in India and abroad for his invention “systems and methods to input or access data using remote submitting mechanism” vide application number 1118/mum/2012 and related foreign patent applications (pct, uspto). While assessing the eligibility conditions for the startup, it has been discovered that the founders own several companies and one startup and have formed the new company for availing benefits under startup scheme under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. Given that their previous startup was formed in 2015, the startup Minkville Innoventures Private Limited does not qualify for the benefits under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. The same has been communicated to the startup earlier and in response the startup submitted that the nature of business is different for both the startups, but the background patented technology is being used in both startups. Based on abovementioned fact, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board has decided that certificate of eligibility for availing benefits of tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax cannot be issued to the startup Minkville Innoventures Private Limited, Mumbai.

13. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about RIAJAY BIOPLAST PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP29348, which is involved in manufacturing high quality, low-cost raw material for Indian Bio Plastic processor and oriented bioplastic film for flexible packaging. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. As per the technical agency, with the comment “Riajay Bioplast Private Limited., Mumbai (DIPP29348) incorporated on 5th September 2018 by Mr Hitesh Sanghvi, Jay Sanghvi and Ria Sanghvi, and proposes to manufacture advanced bioplastics in india, as per returns submitted the company is in loss for last two years. On conducting a thorough search for assessing the eligibility conditions for the startup, it has been found that Mr. Hitesh Sanghvi also owns a company known as “Advance Biomaterials Company Private Limited., Mumbai which has been incorporated on 29th May 2012, and is working in similar sector offering similar products as the applicant company. It has
also been noted that both the companies have the same website. The same observation was communicated to the startup earlier. In response the startup re-iterated that the nature of business is different for both the companies but are working in the area of bioplastics. Further, the applicant company also stated that it has plans to manufacture rather than importing and trading as carried out the by the existing entity. Thus, it can be concluded that the applicant company has been formed for availing benefits under startup scheme under 80-IAC and others. Based on abovementioned fact, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board decided that certificate of eligibility for availing benefits of tax exemption under 80-IAC cannot be issued to the startup Riajay Bioplast Private Limited, Mumbai.

14. The IMB secretariat presented the Board about SHILPMIS TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP3444, which is involved in development of a web-based reality platform “Melzo” which offers immersive virtual reality experience and a Talkbot- AI powered Virtual Human-like Avatar placed within a VR environment for Brand Engagement and Customer Assistance. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. As per the technical agency, Shilpmis Technologies Private Limited, Surat (DIPP3444) is incorporated on 1st March 2017 by Mr Parimal G Desai and Hardik Parimal Desai, and it has developed web-based reality platform “Melzo” which offers immersive virtual reality experience and developed a Talkbot- AI powered virtual human-like avatar placed within a VR environment for brand engagement and customer assistance. On conducting a thorough search for assessing the eligibility conditions for the startup, it has been found that the founders own another company Shilp Maitri Innovative Solutions LLP. Additionally, Mr Parimal G Desai is also into real estate business since 1988 and has established the Shilp Maitri Group. The same observation was communicated to the startup earlier. In response, the applicant company clarified that the company has been formed to fetch investments and the products and services of the previous company (LLP) is being used by the entity. No clarification has been provided regarding the Shilp Maitri Group. Thus, it can be concluded that the applicant company has been formed for availing benefits under startup scheme under Section 80-IAC and others. Hence, based on abovementioned facts, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board decided that certificate of eligibility for availing benefits of tax exemption under Section 80-IAC cannot be issued to the startup Shilpmis Technologies Private Limited, Surat.

15. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about VISCADIA PRIVATE LIMITED, DIPP31365, which is involved in asset forecasting for clients in
the pharma and biotech industries. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. As per the technical agency, Viscadia Private Limited, New Delhi (DIPP31365) incorporated on 17th May 2016 by Mr. Satish R Kauta has developed a product which helps in asset forecasting for clients in pharma and biotech industries. The product is performing well and is serving several clients. The entity is continuously in profit from the last three years. While conducting a thorough search, it was found that the entity has its headquarters in Washington, USA and has been offering its products/services since 2010. The same observation was communicated to the startup earlier. In response, the applicant company provided the shareholding details of the founder (Mr. Satish R Kauta) in both the companies which was stated as 100% in the company registered in USA (also having an office in Boston) and 90% in the company registered in India. Thus, it can be concluded that the applicant company has been formed for availing benefits under startup scheme under Section 80-IAC and others and is a subsidiary of the existing company registered in USA to extend its business in India. Hence, based on abovementioned facts, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board decided that certificate of eligibility for availing benefits of tax exemption under Section 80-IAC cannot be issued to the startup Viscadia Private Limited, New Delhi.

16. The IMB secretariat apprised the Board about MAILR TECH LLP, DIPP3291, which has developed Canary Mail, an email client that offers seamless end-to-end encryption without compromising on features and user experience. The technical agency evaluated the case and did not recommend it for Income tax exemption under Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act. As per the technical agency, Mailr Tech LLP, Rajkot (DIPP3291) was incorporated on 6th August 2016 by Sanghani family viz Dev Vikram Sanghani, Sohel Vikram Sanghani and Vikram Bhupat Sanghani and the product of the startup is ‘Canary Mail app’ on IOS, which is an end-to-end encrypted email service, is performing well and serving for many clients at Interpol, NYU, Bitcoin.com, Omidyar Group and few others. While assessing the eligibility conditions for the startup, it has been discovered that the founders owns several companies and startups, and have formed the new company for availing benefits under startup scheme under 80-IAC and others, as their previous company ace soft was formed in 2005. The same have been communicated to the startup earlier and in response the startup submitted that the nature of business is different for older companies and are offering other services and the applicant company has been formed to deliver a product canary. Based on abovementioned fact, while considering all clarifications/justifications submitted by the startup, the Board decided that certificate of eligibility for
availing benefits of tax exemption under Section 80-IAC cannot be issued to the startup Mailr Tech LLP, Rajkot.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.