

INCOME-TAX ACT, 2025

A: Authorities, jurisdiction and functions

Section 241 - Jurisdiction of income-tax authorities.

(1) The income-tax authorities shall exercise all or any of the powers and perform all or any of the functions conferred on, or assigned to, such authorities under this Act, as per such directions as the Board may issue for the exercise of the powers and performance of the functions by all or any of those authorities.

(2) Any income-tax authority, being an authority higher in rank, may, if so directed by the Board, exercise the powers and perform the functions of an income-tax authority lower in rank and any such direction issued by the Board shall be deemed to be a direction issued under sub-section (1).

(3) The directions of the Board under sub-section (1) may authorise any other income-tax authority to issue orders in writing for the exercise of the powers and performance of the functions by all or any of the other income-tax authorities who are subordinate to it.

(4) In issuing the directions or orders referred to in sub-sections (1), (2) and (3), the Board or other income-tax authority authorised by it may have regard to any one or more of the following criteria:—

(a) territorial area;

(b) persons or classes of persons;

(c) incomes or classes of income; and

(d) cases or classes of cases.

(5) Without prejudice to sub-sections (1), (2) and (3), the Board may, by general or special order, subject to such conditions, restrictions or limitations as specified therein--

(a) authorise any Principal Director General or Director General or Principal Director or Director to perform such functions of any other income-tax authority as may be assigned to him by the Board;

(b) empower the specified income-tax authority to issue orders in writing that the powers and functions conferred on, or assigned to, the Assessing Officer under this Act in respect of any specified area, or persons or classes of persons, or incomes or classes of income, or cases or classes of cases, shall be exercised or performed by an Additional Commissioner or an Additional Director or a Joint Commissioner or a Joint Director.

(6) Where any order is made under sub-section (5)(b), references in any other provision of this Act or in any rule made thereunder, to the Assessing Officer shall be deemed to be references to such Additional Commissioner or Additional Director or Joint Commissioner or Joint Director by whom the powers and functions are to be exercised or performed under such order, and any provision of this Act requiring approval or sanction of the Joint Commissioner shall not apply.

(7) The directions and orders referred to in sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) may, wherever considered necessary or appropriate for the proper management of work, require two or more Assessing Officers (whether or not of the same class) to exercise and perform, concurrently, the powers and functions in respect of any area, or persons or classes of persons, or incomes or classes of income, or cases or classes of cases, and--

(a) where such powers and functions are exercised and performed concurrently by the Assessing Officers of different classes, any authority lower in rank amongst them shall exercise the powers and perform the functions as any higher authority amongst them may direct; and

(b) references in any other provision of this Act or in any rule made thereunder to the Assessing Officer shall be deemed to be references to such higher authority and any provision of this Act requiring approval or sanction of any such authority shall not apply.

(8) Irrespective of anything contained in any direction or order issued under this section, or in section 242, the Board may, by notification, issue any direction for the purposes of furnishing of the return of income or the doing of any other act or thing under this Act or any rule made thereunder by any person or class of persons.

(9) The income-tax authority exercising and performing the powers and functions in relation to the person or class of persons referred to in sub-section (8) shall be such authority as specified in the notification issued under that sub-section.