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Note on Taxation

The following summary of the tax considerations is based on the reading of the current provisions of the tax laws of India and the regulations thereunder, the judicial and the administrative interpretations thereof, which are subject to change or modification by subsequent legislative, regulatory, administrative or judicial decisions, any such changes might have different tax implications.

In view of the complexity and the subjectivity involved in the tax consequences on buyback transaction, eligible shareholders are required to consult their respective tax advisors for tax treatment in their hands considering the relevant tax provisions, facts and circumstances of their case. The company does not accept any responsibility for the accuracy or otherwise of this tax summary and explicitly disowns any liability arising out of any action including a tax position taken by the eligible shareholder by relying on this summary. The summary of tax considerations relating to buy back of equity shares listed on the stock exchange set out below should be treated as indicative and for general guidance purposes only.

1) General

The Indian tax year runs from 1 April to 31 March. The basis of charge of Indian income-tax depends upon the residential status of the taxpayer during a tax year. A person who is a tax resident of India is liable to taxation in India on his worldwide income, subject to certain prescribed tax exemptions provided under the Income Tax Act 1961 ('ITA').

A person who is treated as a non-resident for Indian tax purposes is generally liable to tax in India only on his/her India sourced income or income received by such person in India. In case of shares of a Company, the source of income from shares would depend on the 'situs' of the shares. As per judicial precedents, generally the "situs" of the shares is where company is "incorporated" and where its shares can be transferred. Accordingly, since the Company is incorporated in India, the shares of the Company would be "situated" in India and any gains arising to a non-resident on transfer of such shares should be taxable in India under the ITA subject to any specific exemption in this regard. Further, the non-resident can avail the beneficial tax treatment prescribed under the relevant Double Tax Avoidance Agreement ("DTAA") subject to satisfaction of the relevant conditions including non-applicability of General Anti-Avoidance Rule ("GAAR") and providing and maintaining necessary information and documents as prescribed under the ITA.

The summary of tax implications on buyback of equity shares listed on the stock exchanges in India is set out below. All references to equity shares in this note refer to equity shares listed on the stock exchanges in India unless stated otherwise.

2) Income Tax Provisions in respect of Buyback of Equity Shares listed on Recognized Stock Exchange

- Finance Act, 2019 has amended Section 115QA to include Companies Listed on Recognized stock Exchange within the ambit of Section 115QA. As per Section 115QA, Listed Companies making a public announcement of Buyback of shares on or after 5th July 2019 are required to Pay an additional Tax @ 20%, plus Surcharge @ 12%, plus Health & Education Cess @4% on the Distributed Income. Distributed Income is defined under section 115QA to include Consideration paid by the company on buyback of Shares as reduced by the amount which was received by the company on issue of such shares, determined in the manner specified in Rule 40BB.

- The tax on the distributed income by the company shall be treated as the final payment of tax in respect of the said income and no further credit therefor shall be claimed by the company or by any other person in respect of the amount of tax so paid.

- No deduction under any other provision of this Act shall be allowed to the company or a shareholder in respect of the income which has been charged to tax

- As the said income has been charged to tax at company level, it shall be exempt in the hands of shareholders under section 10(34A) of the ITA. Accordingly, any income arising in the hands of the shareholder (whether resident or non-resident) on buyback of equity shares shall be exempt from tax in India irrespective of the characterization of the shares, i.e. whether long term or short term or held as investment or stock-in-trade under sub-clause (34A) of Section 10 of the ITA.

3) Tax Deduction at Source

Since there is no provision regarding the TDS in case of Buyback, company is not required to deduct any tax at source on consideration payable to Resident Shareholders.

Further, given that the consequential income would be exempt from tax in the hands of shareholders u/s 10(34A) of the ITA, the same would not be subject to TDS for Non-Resident Shareholders.

Caveat:
The summary of the tax considerations as above is based on the current provisions of the tax laws of India, which are subject to change or modification by subsequent legislative, regulatory, administrative or judicial decisions.

Shareholders, who are non-residents in India, in respect of tax consequence (including capital gain tax, if any) in their state of residence, are required to consult their tax advisors for the applicable tax and the appropriate course of action that they should take considering the provisions of the relevant Country or State tax law and provisions of DTAA where applicable.

The above note on taxation sets out the provisions of law in a summary manner only and does not purport to be a complete analysis or listing of all potential tax consequences of the disposal of equity shares. This note is neither binding on any regulators nor can there be any assurance that they will not take a position contrary to the comments mentioned herein

4) **SECURITIES TRANSACTION TAX**

Since the buyback of shares shall take place through the settlement mechanism of the Stock Exchange, Securities Transaction Tax at 0.1% of the value of the transaction will be applicable.

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