

## **Tax on distributed Income to shareholders**

Section 115QA of the ITA introduced w.e.f. June 1, 2013 contains provisions for taxation of a domestic company in respect of buy-back of shares (within the meaning of Sec. 68 of the Companies Act). In effect, the incidence of tax stands shifted completely to the Company and not the recipient of the buyback proceeds.

Before the enactment of Finance Act (No 2), 2019, this section was not applicable to shares listed on a recognized stock exchange. The Finance Act (No 2), 2019 has amended section 115QA of the ITA with effect from 5th July, 2019 extending its provisions to cover distributed income on buy-back of equity shares of a company listed on a recognized stock exchange as well.

Presently the tax rate under Section 115QA is 20% + 12% surcharge + 4% cess thus making the effective tax rate to be 23.296% on the distributed income (As on the date).

Section 10(34A) of the ITA provided for exemption to a shareholder in respect of income arising from buy-back of shares w.e.f. April 1, 2014 (i.e. Assessment year 2014-15). The Finance Act (No. 2), 2019 has also made consequential changes to section 10(34A) of the ITA extending the benefit of exemption of income from buy-back to shareholders in respect of shares listed on recognized stock exchange as well.

In short, buy-back amount received is tax exempt in the hands of shareholder and taxable in the hands of Company @ 23.296% on the distributed income.

This provision is not applicable w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2024.