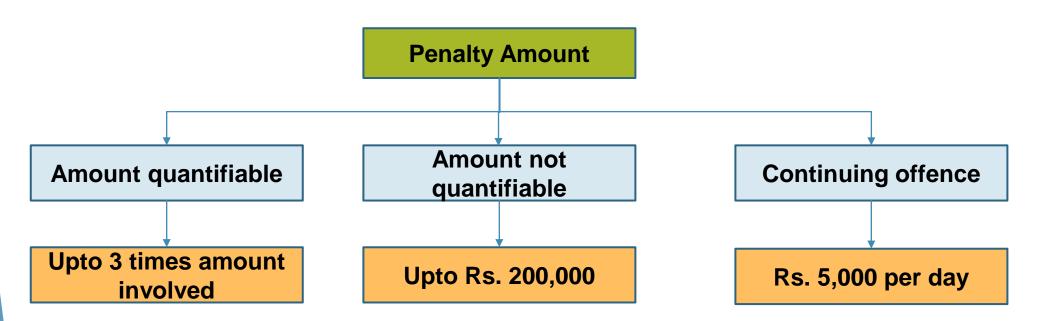
## Compounding Process – FEMA Intensive FEMA Series – Ahmedabad Branch – May 2019

**BGSS & Associates** 

**Chartered Accountants** 

## **Compounding Process**

# Penal consequences for contravention – Section 13(1) & 13(2)



- Property involved in contravention can be confiscated.
- Foreign exchange holdings may be directed to be brought back, or retained outside India.

## Seizure, Confiscation and Prosecution

- If foreign exchange, foreign security or immovable property, situated outside India – is suspected to have been has been acquired in violation of FEMA, and the officer has reason to believe it, equivalent Indian assets can be seized. [S. 37A)].
- No Compounding is available once Section 37A is applied.
- For the above offence, there can be prosecution upto 5 years and with fine.
   [Section 13(1B) and 13(1C)]
- Further assets can be confiscated [Section 13(1A)]
- These provisions are applicable if the value of assets is in excess of Rs. 1 cr.

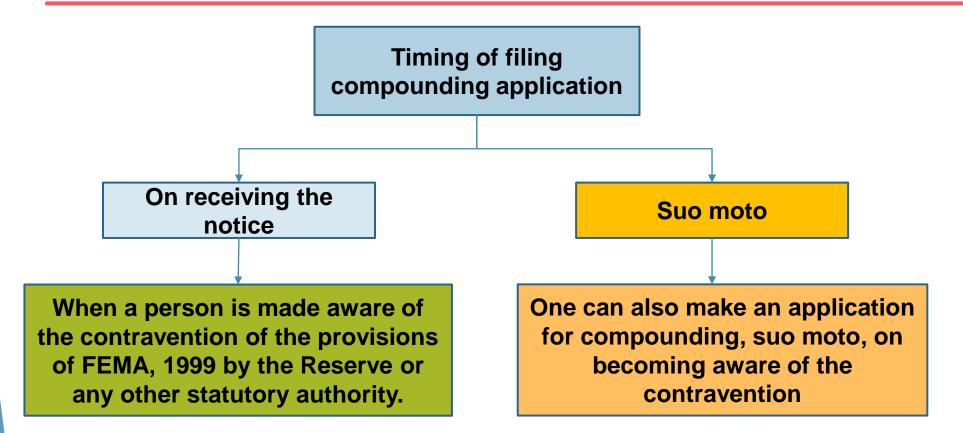
## Applicable Regulatory Framework

- Section 15 of FEMA
- Relevant Notifications Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000, as amended from time to time
- Master Direction on Compounding issued by RBI from time to time
- AP DIR Circulars issued by RBI from time to time
- RBI has power to compound all offences except those relating to section 3(a)
  - Section 3(a) Deal in or transfer any foreign exchange or foreign security to any person not being an authorised person
- ED has power to compound offences relating to section 3(a)

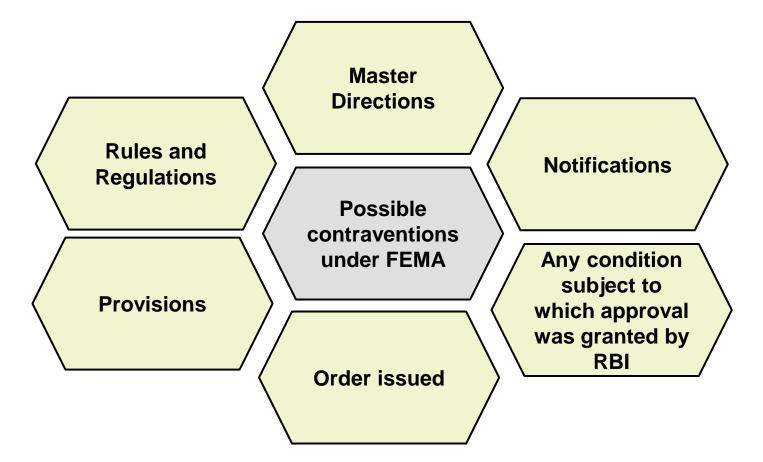
## Compounding Process – Key points

- Voluntary process involving admission of guilt
- Cannot argue applicability of contravention
- Compounding possible only if amount involved is quantifiable
- Compounding cannot be done unless contraventions are corrected
- Hence, undertake necessary compliances before compounding application has to be filed
- Thus, file necessary forms, obtain RBI approval, wherever required, government approval, where required before filing compounding application

## Filing of compounding application



## **Compounding - Contraventions**

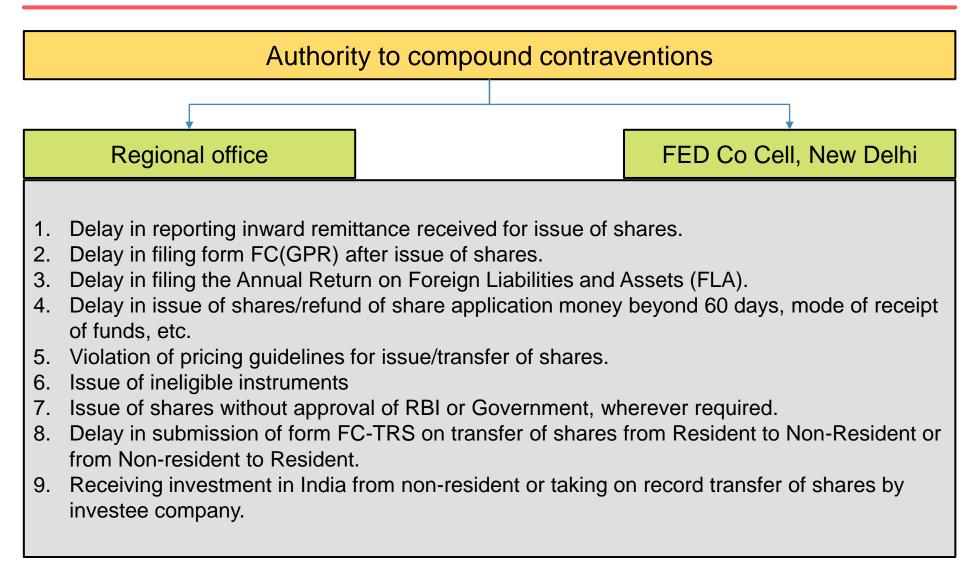


#### **RBI** Offices

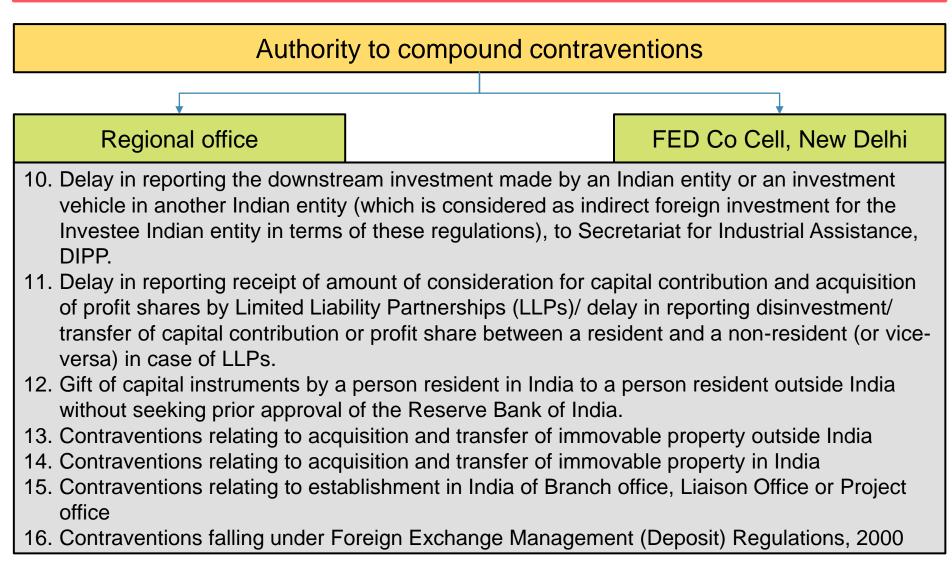
The RBI has 27 regional offices and 4 zonal offices across India.

	Regional office	Zonal office
<ol> <li>Jammu</li> <li>Srinagar</li> <li>Chandigarh</li> <li>Shimla</li> <li>Dehradun</li> <li>Ahmedabad</li> <li>Jaipur</li> <li>Lucknow</li> <li>Gangtok</li> <li>Patna</li> <li>Guwahati</li> <li>Shillong</li> <li>Agartala</li> </ol>	15.Aizawl 16.Ranchi 17.Belapur 18.Raipur 19.Nagpur 20.Hyderabad 21.Panaji 22.Bengaluru 23.Bhubaneshwar 24.Kanpur 25.Kochi 26.Thiruvananthapuram 27.Bhopal	<ol> <li>New Delhi</li> <li>Mumbai</li> <li>Chennai</li> <li>Kolkata</li> </ol>
14.Imphal	·	BGSS & Associates

#### Authority to compound



### Authority to compound



### Authority to compound

- The powers to compound the contraventions mentioned is above slides has been delegated to all Regional offices (except Kochi and Panaji) and FED, CO Cell, New Delhi respectively without any limit on the amount of contravention.
- Kochi and Panaji Regional offices can compound the contraventions (From 1 to 12) for amount of contravention below Rupees one hundred lakh (Rs.1,00,00,000/-).
- The contraventions for amounts of Rupees one hundred lakh (Rs. 1,00,00,000/-) or more under the jurisdiction of Panaji and Kochi Regional Offices with respect to all the delegated powers shall henceforth be compounded at Mumbai RO and Thiruvananthapuram RO respectively.

## Steps for Compounding Application

Payment of Rs. 5000/-

Application for compounding to be made in specified format

Furnish details relating to FDI / ECB / ODI / BO / LO with copy of memorandum of association and audited balance sheet

Undertaking that they are not under any investigation

If application for compounding is rejected then refund of Rs. 5000/- will be granted.

Basis of rejection can be any of the following:

- Approval not obtained from concerned authorities
- Incomplete application for compounding

Report to compounding authority in case of change in address / contact details

## Pending investigation

- If investigation is pending against applicant, it should be mentioned at the time of filing compounding application
- > If investigation is initiated after filing the application, inform RBI.
- > RBI will write to ED / CBI / relevant agency asking if they have any objection.
- If agency gives NOC, RBI will compound
- No compounding, if ED is of the view that there is serious contravention suspected of money laundering, terror financing or affecting sovereignty and integrity of the nation
- If appeal has been filed u/s. 17 Special Director (Appeals) or 19 Appellate Tribunal, compounding will not be done

## Pre-Requisite for compounding process

- Not committed <u>similar</u> contravention in past 3 years.
- After expiry of 3 years, any subsequent or second contravention would be considered as first contravention.

Related to any transaction where prior approval was required but the same was not obtained then compounding is not possible unless required approvals are obtained.

Following cases of compounding are considered as *serious contravention*:

- Money laundering
- Terror funding
- Affecting sovereignty and integrity of the nation
- Contravener fails to pay the sum for which contravention was compounded All such cases shall be referred to Directorate of Enforcement for further investigation for necessary.

Report to compounding authority in case of change in address / contact details

## Post filing of application

- Queries, if any, raised by RBI
- Opportunity of hearing given to Applicant. Applicant may choose to not appear personally before RBI
- If there are more violations, can subsequently add the same during compounding proceedings
- Compounding order to be passed within 180 days
- Compounding penalty to be paid within 15 days from the date of the order of compounding of such contravention

## Post receipt of Compounding order

- Non appealable order
- No review or rectification possible
- No withdrawal possible
- If compounding penalty not paid within due date of 15 days, If not paid, it will be considered as application was not made and RBI may refer matter to ED

#### Guidance Note on Computation Matrix (1/3)

Type of contravention	Formula	
Reporting	Fixed amount : Rs. 10,000/- + Variable amount as under:	
<u>Contravention</u> :	Up to 10 lakhs	1000 per year
<ul><li>By ECB</li><li>By FDI</li></ul>	Above Rs.10 lakhs & below Rs. 40 lakhs	2500 per year
<ul><li>By ODI</li><li>Any other</li></ul>	Rs.40 lakhs or more and below Rs. 100 lakhs	7000 per year
reporting requirement	Rs.1-10 crore	50,000 per year
	Rs.10 -100 Crore	1,00,000 per year
	Above Rs.100 Crore	2,00,000 per year
Reporting Contravention by LO/BO/PO	As above, subject to ceiling of Rs.2 lakhs. In case of Project Office, the amount imposed shall be calculated on 10% of total project cost.	

## Guidance Note on Computation Matrix (2/3)

Type of contravention	Formula
AAC/ APR/ Share certificate delays: In case of non-submission/ delayed submission of APR/ share certificates (FEMA 120) or AAC (FEMA 22) or FC-GPR or FLA Returns - FEMA 20 / FEMA 20 (R) / FEMA 120	Rs.10,000/- per AAC/APR/FC-GPR /FLA Return delayed. Delayed receipt of share certificate – Rs.10,000/- per year, the total amount being subject to ceiling of 300% of the amount invested.
<ul> <li>A. <u>Allotment/Refunds</u>: Para 8 of FEMA 20/2000-RB (non-allotment of shares or allotment/ refund after the stipulated 180 days)</li> <li>B. <u>LO/BO/PO</u>: (Other than reporting contraventions)</li> </ul>	Rs.30,000/- (+) given percentage: 1st year : $0.30\%$ 1-2 years : $0.35\%$ 2-3 years : $0.40\%$ 3-4 years : $0.45\%$ 4-5 years : $0.50\%$ >5 years : $0.75\%$ (For project offices the amount of contravention shall be deemed to be 10% of the cost of project).

### Guidance Note on Computation Matrix (3/3)

Type of contravention	Formula
All other contraventions except Corporate Guarantees but including all contraventions of FEMA 20 other than FLA Returns.	Rs.50,000/- (+) given percentage: 1st year : 0.50% 1-2 years : 0.55% 2-3 years : 0.60% 3-4 years : 0.65% 4-5 years : 0.70% > 5 years : 0.75%
Issue of Corporate Guarantees without UIN/ without permission wherever required /open ended guarantees or any other contravention related to issue of Corporate Guarantees.	Rs.5,00,000/- (+) given percentage: 1st year : 0.050% 1-2 years : 0.055% 2-3 years : 0.060% 3-4 years : 0.065% 4-5 years : 0.070% >5 years : 0.075% In case the contravention includes issue of guarantees for raising loans which are invested back into India, the amount imposed may be trebled.

#### Condition: Computation Matrix

Amount calculated as per formula mentioned in earlier slides is subject to following conditions:

- The amount imposed should not exceed 300% of the amount of contravention
- In case the amount of contravention is less than Rs. One lakh, the total amount imposed should not be more than amount of simple interest @5% p.a. calculated on the amount of contravention and for the period of the contravention in case of reporting contraventions and @10% p.a. in respect of all other contraventions.
- In cases where it is established that the Applicant has made undue gains, the amount thereof may be neutralized to a reasonable extent by adding the same to the compounding amount calculated as per chart.
- If a party who has been compounded earlier applies for compounding again for similar contravention, the amount calculated as above may be enhanced by 50%
- Contraventions to Para 8 to Schedule I of FEMA 20
  - If shares are allotted beyond prescribed period of 180 days 1.25 times;
  - Amount refunded with RBI's approval 1.50 times;
  - Amount refunded without RBI's approval 1.75 times of amount computed in preceding slides

#### Factors for considering the quantum of payment

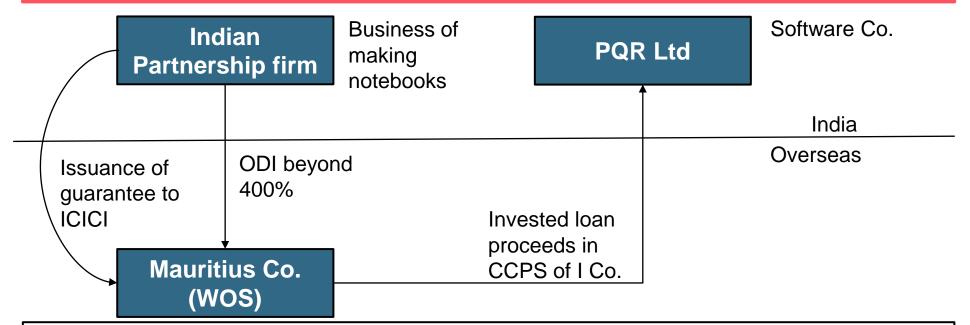
- a) the amount of gain of unfair advantage, wherever quantifiable, made as a result of the contravention;
- b) the amount of loss caused to any authority/ agency/ exchequer as a result of the contravention;
- c) economic benefits accruing to the contravener from delayed compliance or compliance avoided;
- d) the repetitive nature of the contravention, the track record and/or history of non-compliance of the contravener;
- e) contravener's conduct in undertaking the transaction and in disclosure of full facts in the application and submissions made during the personal hearing; and any other factor as considered relevant and appropriate.

## Compounding – Few cases

#### Case study 1 – Loan from NRI shareholder

	NRI Shareholder			Nature of contravention: Loan taken from NRI without issue of	
Interest free loan	st free			_	non-convertible debentures by way of public offer
	011100		Repayment of loan / allotment of shares		<b>Penalty:</b> Rs. 1,10,80,000/-
					<b>Basis:</b> Loan was taken on interest free basis, undue gains accrued to
		Indian Co.		Mfg of yarns & textiles, etc	Applicant. Rate of interest accruing on GOI Bonds of 10 year maturity notionally applied to determine
Facts of the case:					minimum interest rate of interest which
Loan amount - Rs. 13.53 crs			13.53	crs	would have been payable, if such
Converted into equity – Rs. 10.29 crs					borrowings were sourced domestically
Repaid with RBI approval – Rs.3 crs					
Refund without RBI Approval - Rs. 0.24 crs					CA No. 4233/2016
Time lag between receipt and conversion /			•	and conversion /	Dated: April 26, 2017
refund - 1 year to 4 years			years		Aarti Yarnfab Private Limited

## Case study 2 – ODI (1/2)



#### Facts of the case:

- Indian partnership firm issued corporate and personal guarantees to the extent of USD 300 and USD 38.7 million respectively, on behalf of its WOS, to ICICI Bank, Bahrain, to enable the WOS to raise a loan of USD 30 million.
- The financial commitment of the applicant went beyond the stipulated limit of 400% of the net worth as the net worth was only Rs. 14,929/-
- Moreover, WOS invested in CCPS of an Indian company which was in the business of software publishing, advertisements etc. which activities are not eligible for raising external commercial borrowing

### Case study 2 – ODI(2/2)

#### Nature of contravention:

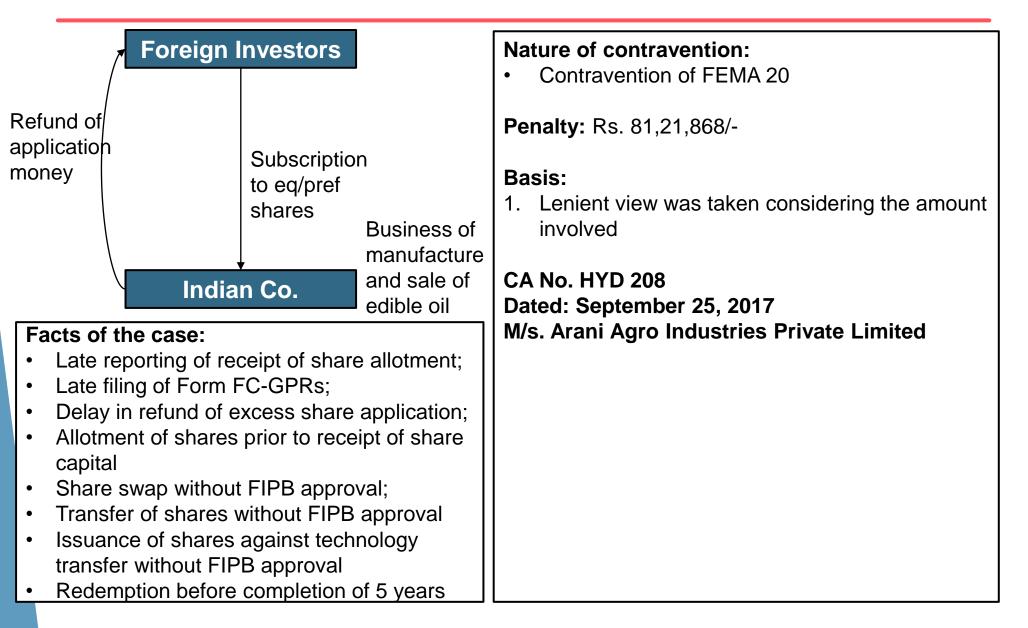
- Making total financial commitment in excess of the prescribed percentage of net-worth
- Overseas direct investment in a non-bonafide activity
- Delay in filing Form ODI

Penalty: Rs. 17,35,74,959/-

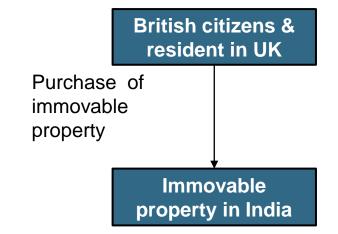
**Basis:** The Applicant has failed to prove that WOS was engaged in any activity other than funneling the loan proceeds back into the country, that too into an Indian company who was ineligible to directly raise ECB and for a purpose which would have been ab initio impermissible.

CA No. 4096/2016 Dated: January 25, 2017 RIR Enterprises

### Case study 3 – FDI



## Case study 4 - Purchase of immovable property in India



#### Facts of the case:

- British citizens and residents of UK, jointly acquired immovable property in India by way of purchase on April 17, 1995 for Rs.10,00,000
- They were required to obtain prior permission of Reserve Bank for acquiring immovable property
- The applicants were granted permission for disposal of said property within 6 months subject to compounding for the contravention and then repatriating the amount through NRO account subject to RBI approval

#### Nature of contravention:

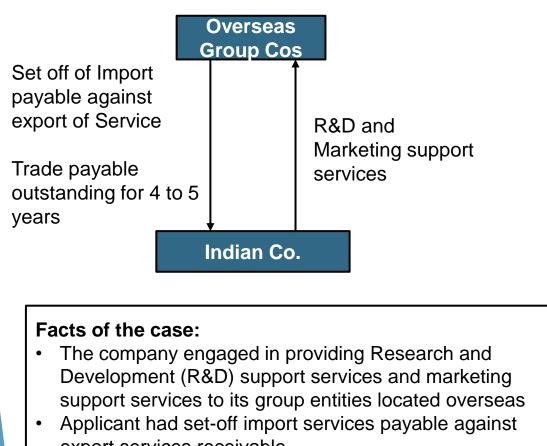
Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property in India without prior approval of RBI

Penalty: Rs. 30,00,000/-

**Basis:** Prior permission for acquisition of immovable property was not taken by non residents

CA No. 48/2016 Dated: October 21, 2016 Mr.Barry Kendal Dansie, Ms.Wendy Dansie, Mr.Derek Alfred Parker and Ms.Catherine Margaret Ingram

#### Case study 5 – Export & Import



export services receivable
Applicant, had outstanding import services payables, which was not remitted for a period of four-five years.

#### Nature of contravention:

- (i) Set-off of import services payables against export services receivables from its group entities, without prior approval from RBI
- (ii) Non-remittance of outstanding trade payables to the parent company

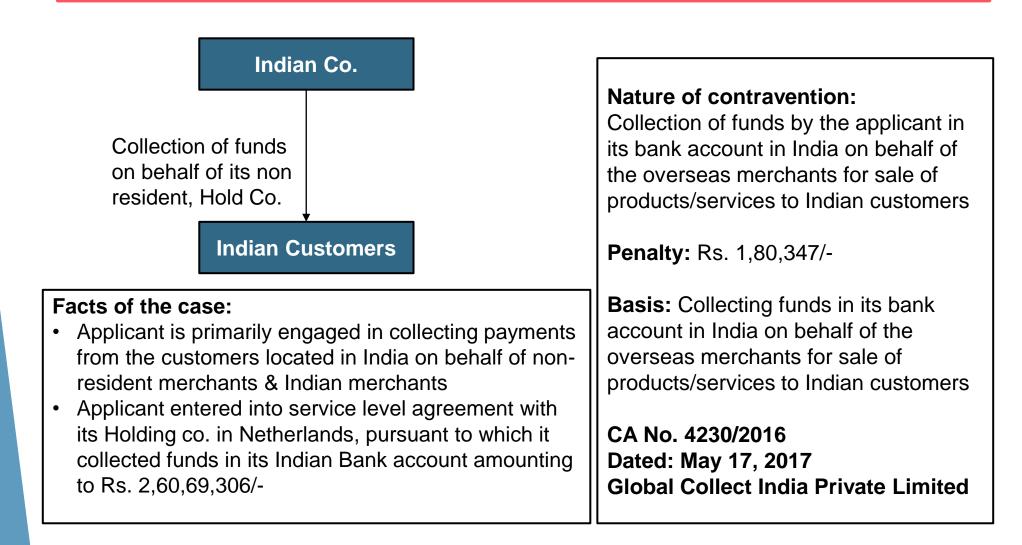
Penalty: Rs. 2,34,105/-

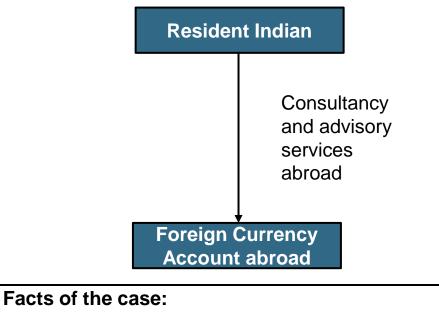
**Basis:** Set-off of imports payable against exports receivable is not mentioned as a permitted mode of payment or receipt.

The trade payables were kept pending without seeking the approval of either AD bank or RBI.

CA No. 3952 / 2016 Dated: September 14, 2016 Solarwinds (India) Pvt. Ltd

#### Case study 6 – Collecting funds on behalf of NR





- Applicant, along with his brother, with a view to pursue consultancy and advisory services outside India, opened various foreign currency accounts overseas, in order to credit their earnings abroad
- Amount of contravention Rs. 65.67 crs
- Period 2 months to 6 years

#### Nature of contravention:

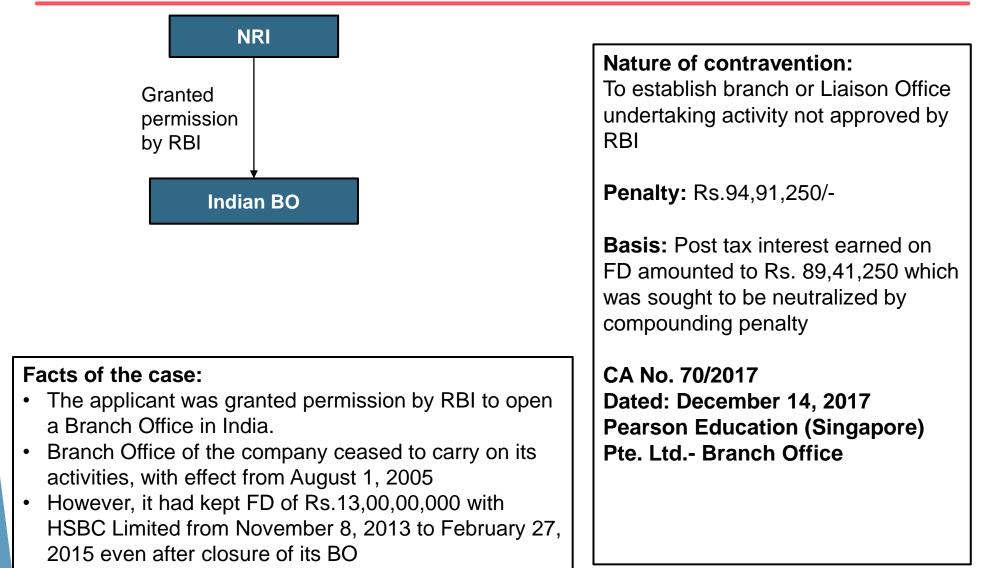
Opening and maintenance of Foreign Currency Accounts abroad by a resident Indian

Penalty: Rs. 69,45,495/-

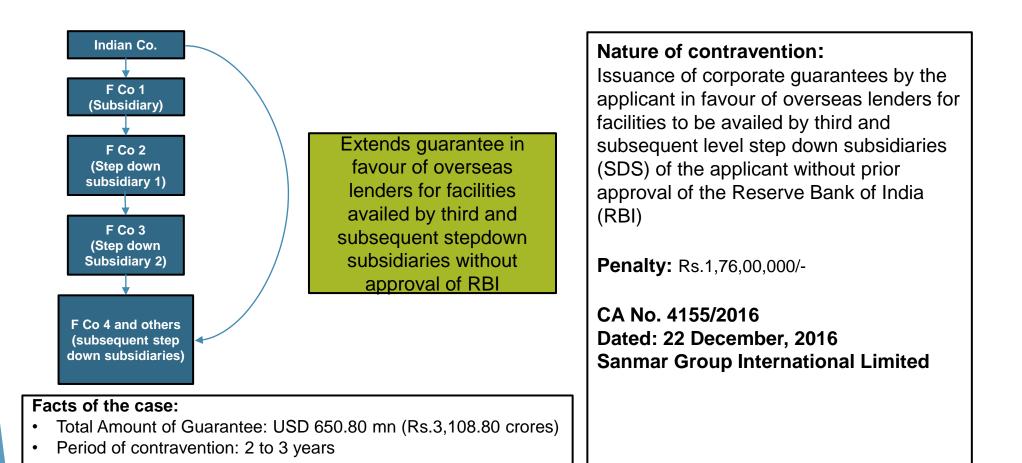
**Basis:** Apart from overseas earnings credited to foreign account, interest earned thereon was considered as undue gain which were neutralized

CA No. 4444/2017 Dated: November 28, 2017 Arun Mammen

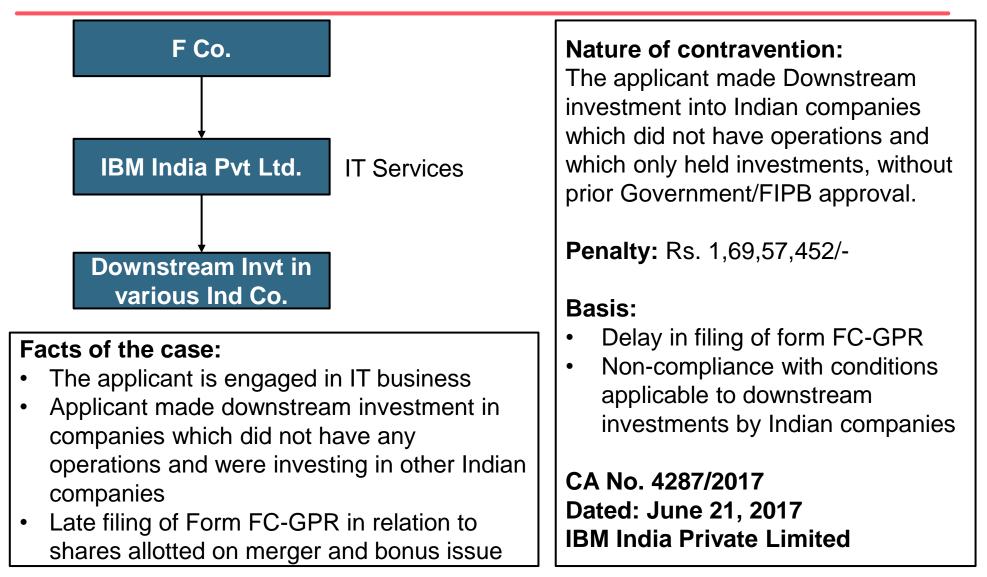
#### Case study 8 – Branch office



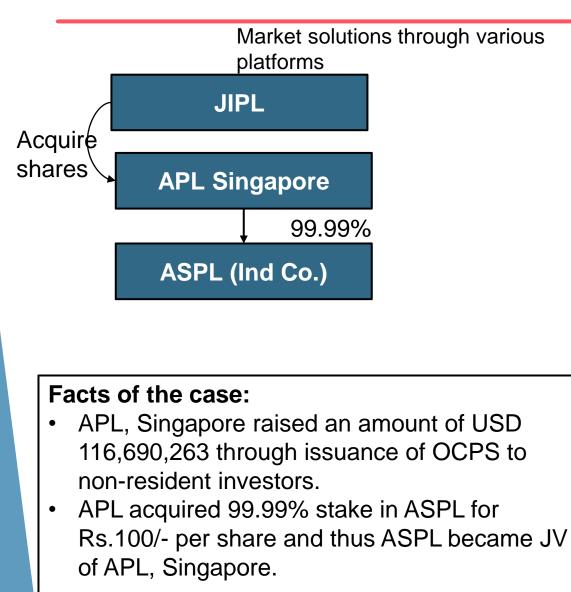
#### Case study 9 – Issuance of Guarantee on behalf of SDOS



#### Case study 10 – Downstream investment



#### Case study 11 –ODI + FDI

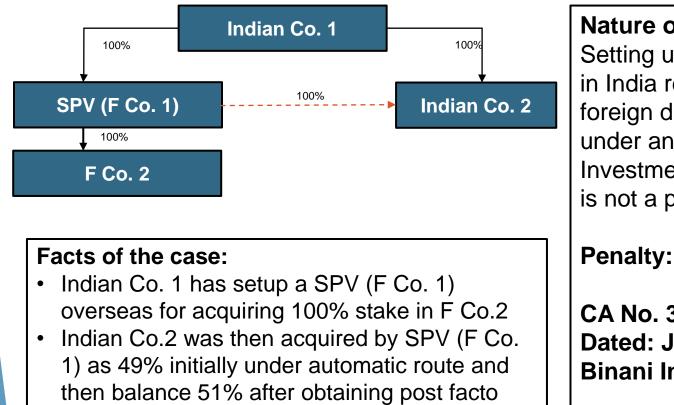


#### Nature of contravention:

- Undertaking foreign direct investment (FDI) under overseas direct investment (ODI) route in contravention of the provisions of Regulation 6(2)(ii) of Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security).
- The acquisition of APL by JIPL resulted in an ODI-FDI structure

Penalty: Rs. 12,71,72,860/-

CA No. 4504/2017 Dated: October 25, 2017 Jasper Infotech Private Limited



approval.

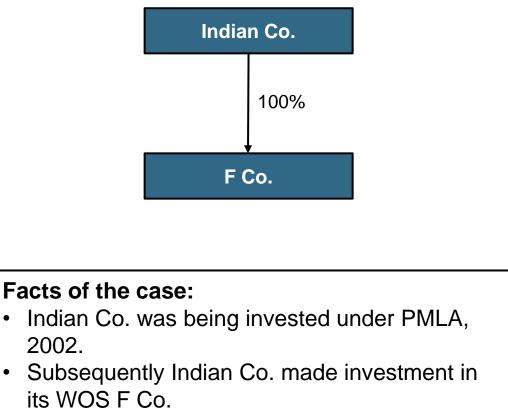
#### Nature of contravention:

Setting up of a step down subsidiary in India resulting into receipt of foreign direct investment (FDI) under an Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) transaction which is not a permissible transaction.

Penalty: Rs. 1,01,85,000/-

CA No. 3867/2015 Dated: June 03, 2016 Binani Industries Limited

#### Case study 13 - ODI



Amount involved is Rs. 203 crs

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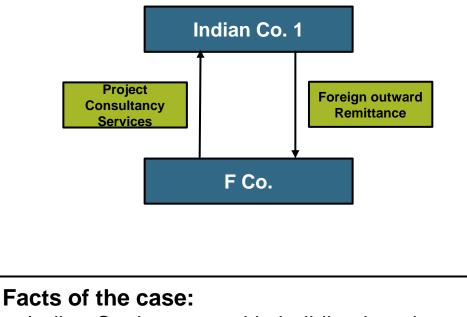
#### Nature of contravention:

Indian Co. made ODI when it was on the Reserve Bank's Exporters caution list / list of defaulters to the banking system circulated by the Reserve Bank or under investigation by any investigation / enforcement agency or regulatory body.

**Penalty:** Rs. 1,11,71,915/-

CA No. 4034/2016 Dated: September 28, 2016 Sociedade De Fomento Industrial **Private Limited** 

#### Case study 14 – Current Account



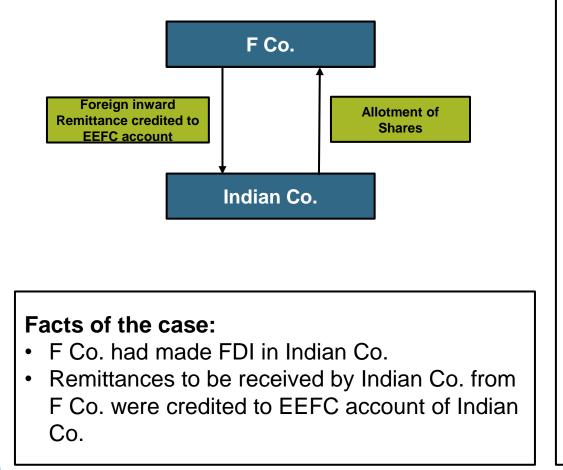
- Indian Co. is engaged in building luxurious hotels.
- Indian Co. entered into agreement with Foreign co. for receiving project consultancy services for a specific project.

Nature of contravention: Not obtaining prior approval of Reserve Bank of India by the applicant for remittances exceeding the permissible limit of USD 10,00,000 per project for other consultancy services procured from outside India. Para 2 (iii) of Schedule III to FEMA (Current Account Transactions) Amendment Rules 2015.

Penalty: Rs. 78,500/-

CA No. 3950/2016 Dated: September 09, 2016 Jaguar Buildcon Private Limited

#### Case study 15 - FDI



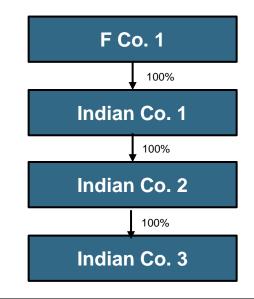
#### Nature of contravention:

Foreign inward remittances received by Indian Co. from F Co. were credited to EEFC account instead of current account which is in violation to Regulation 4 of Notification No.FEMA.10/2000-RB dated May 03, 2000.

Penalty: Rs. 38,40,890/-

CA No. 4724/2018 Dated: December 05, 2018 Apache Footwear India Private Limited

#### Case study 16 – Downstream investment



#### Facts of the case:

- F Co. held 49% in Indian Co. 1 and afterwards it acquired balance 51% from Indian shareholders.
- Indian Co. 3 is engaged in core investment activities.
- Downstream investment by F Co. came under FIPB approval route.

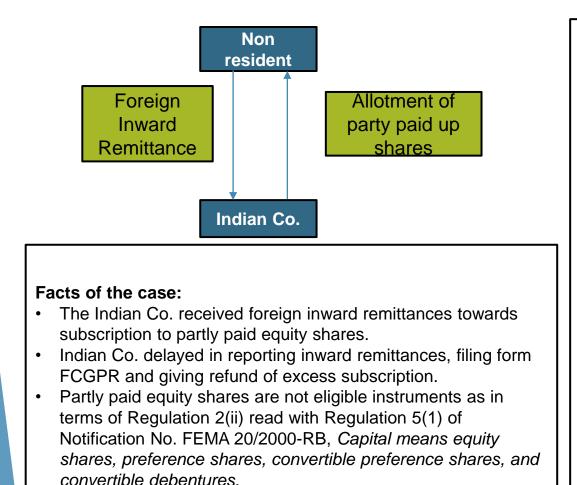
#### Nature of contravention:

Downstream investment by F Co. without obtaining approval from FIPB for company engaged in core investment activities. Regulation 14(6)(ii)(d)(A) of Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB

Penalty: Rs. 3,56,31,793/-

CA No. 4729/2018 Dated: December 13, 2018 ND Callus Info Services Private Limited

#### Case study 17 - FDI



#### Nature of contravention:

Issue 1: Delay in reporting foreign inward remittance for allotment of shares (Rs. 120,13,69,532)

Issue 2: Delay in submission of Form FC-GPR after allotment of shares (Rs. 120,00,00,000)

Issue 3: Delay in refund of excess inward remittance with prior approval of RBI (Rs. 13,69,532)

Issue 4: Issue of partly paid shares (Rs. 114,93,08,441 – amount unpaid at the time of allotment of shares)

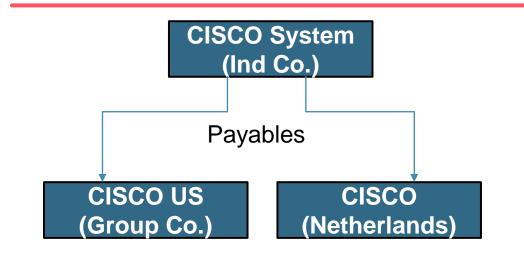
Penalty: Rs. 62,35,949/-

C.A.568/2016 Dated: 23 December, 2016 M/s.DSRK Holdings (Chennai) Pvt Ltd.

#### Case study 18 – ODI - Guarantee

Indian Co. ODI in form of equity capital, loan, SBLC and corporate guarantee WOS outside India	Nature of contravention: Issue 1: making overseas investments and rolling over three Standby Letters of Credit (SBLCs) without prior permission of Reserve Bank of India, despite being under investigation by an investigative agency Issue 2: issuance of open-ended corporate guarantee
<ul> <li>Facts of the case:</li> <li>The Indian Co. made investments and rolled over three SBLCs under automatic route despite of being under investigation by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence</li> <li>The Indian Co. issued an open – ended guarantee</li> </ul>	Amount of contravention: Rs. 24,30,09,58,147 Penalty: Rs. 9,47,34,110/- CA No 4030/2016 Dated: 24 November, 2016 Essar Steel India Limited

#### Case study 19 – Deemed ECB



#### Facts of the case:

- Cisco System (Ind Co.) had received certain services from its group companies, CISCO US and CISCO Netherlands
- Amount was outstanding for more than 3 years

#### Nature of contravention:

- Amount outstanding beyond 3 years would be deemed to be ECB
- Borrowing in foreign exchange from its group companies abroad without meeting the stipulated conditions.

Penalty: Rs. 2,87,90,980/-

CA No. 4253/2016 Dated: June 14, 2017 Cisco Systems (India) Private Limited

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## Thank You