

Chapter XVII

Offences and Penalties

Penalty for certain offences (Section 122)

Section 122 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q1. Whether penalty is imposable for supply of goods or services without issue of any invoice or when an incorrect or false invoice is issued with regard to such supply?

Ans. Yes, in terms of Section 122(1)(i) of the CGST Act, 2017 the above supply of goods and services will be considered to be offence attracting penalty of ten thousand rupees or an amount equivalent to the tax evaded, whichever is higher.

Q2. I am collecting tax on supply of goods and services and did not remit the same within 3 months to the Government. Does the same attract penalty? If yes what is the amount of penalty?

Ans. Collection of tax and non-remittance of the same within 3 months to the Government from the due date for remittance is considered to be an offence under Section 122(1)(iii) of the CGST Act, 2017 attracting penalty of an amount equal to the tax so collected or an Rs. 10,000/- whichever is higher

Q3. I have collected tax on supply of exempted goods and did not remit the tax so collected to the Government account. Would I be liable to penal and other consequences?

Ans. Yes, in terms of Section 122(1)(iv) of the CGST Act, 2017 collection of tax in contravention to the provisions of CGST Act, 2017 and subsequent failure to remit the same to the credit of the Government beyond a period of three months from the date on which such payment becomes due is an offence attracting penalty of Rs. 10,000/- or amount equal to the amount of tax so collected, whichever is higher.

Further, in terms of Section 132(1) (d) read with Section 132(1) (l) of the CGST Act, 2017, the said offence attracts imprisonment which may extend from 1 year to 5 years based on the quantum of tax evasion.

Q4. What are the other activities which would be considered to be offences under section 122(1) attracting penalty?

Ans. The other activities which would be considered to be offences attracting penalty are as under:

- (a) failure to deduct tax in terms of provisions of Section 51 or short deduction of tax or failure to remit tax so deducted

- (b) failure to collect tax by an E commerce operator in terms of Section 52 or short collection of tax or failure to remit tax so collected within
- (c) taking or availment (or both) of input tax credit without actual receipt of goods or services in violation of the provisions
- (d) fraudulently obtaining refund of any CGST/SGST under this Act
- (e) takes or distributes input tax credit in violation of section 20, or the rules made thereunder;
- (f) falsifies or substitutes financial records or produces fake accounts and/or documents or furnishes any false information or return with an intention to evade payment of tax due under this Act;
- (g) failure to obtain registration even though liable to registration;
- (h) furnishing of any false information with regard to registration particulars, either at the time of applying for registration, or subsequently;
- (i) Obstruction or prevention of any officer in discharge of his duties under the GST provisions;
- (j) Transports any taxable goods without the cover of documents as may be specified;
- (k) Suppression of turnover leading to evasion of tax under this Act;
- (l) Failure to keep, maintain or retain books of account and other documents in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (m) Failure to furnish information and/or documents called for by a CGST/SGST officer in accordance with the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder or furnishes false information and/or documents during any proceedings under this Act;
- (n) supplies, transports or stores any goods which he has reason to believe are liable to confiscation under this Act;
- (o) issues any invoice or document by using the identification number of another taxable person;
- (p) tampers with, or destroys any material evidence;
- (q) disposes off or tampers with any goods that have been detained, seized, or attached under this Act;

Q5. What is the penalty that is imposable for the offences referred to in Question 4?

Ans. Rs. 10,000/- or an amount equivalent to the tax evaded or the tax not deducted or short deducted or deducted but not paid to the Government or tax not collected under section

52 or short collected or collected but not paid to the Government or input tax credit availed of or passed on or distributed irregularly, or the refund claimed fraudulently, as the case may be, whichever is higher.

Q6. Whether failure to pay tax or short payment of tax or where refund has been erroneously granted, would also attract penalty even though there is no fraud or misrepresentation or suppression of facts on the part of the taxable person?

Ans. Yes. In terms of Section 122(2), the non payment of tax or short payment of tax or erroneous refund without intention to evade (i.e not involving fraud or any wilful misstatement or suppression of facts to evade tax) would attract a penalty of Rs. 10,000/- or 10% of the tax due, whichever is higher.

Q7. Is there any penalty on the persons who aids or abets in offences attracting penalty in terms of Section 122(1)?

Ans. Yes, any activity pertaining to aiding or abetting the offence would be an offence attracting a penalty to the extent of Rs. 25,000/-. Further, in terms of Section 122(3) following offences shall also be punishable with a penalty to the extent of Rs. 25,000/-:

- (a) acquires possession of, or in any way concerns himself in transporting, removing, depositing, keeping, concealing, supplying, or purchasing or in any other manner deals with any goods which he knows or has reason to believe are liable to confiscation under this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (b) receives or is in any way concerned with the supply of, or in any other manner deals with any supply of services which he knows or has reason to believe are in contravention of any provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (c) fails to appear before the officer of Central Tax, when issued with a summon for appearance to give evidence or produce a document in an enquiry;
- (d) fails to issue invoice in accordance with the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder, or fails to account for an invoice in his books of account;

Penalty for failure to furnish information or failure to furnish statistics (Section 123 and 124)

Section 123 and 124 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q8. Whether non-filing of information return or furnish statistics as required would attract penalty and what is the quantum of penalty?

Ans. Yes, If a person who is required to furnish an information return under section 150 fails to do so within the period specified in the notice issued under sub-section (3) thereof, the proper officer may direct that such person shall be liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 100 for each day of the period during which the failure to furnish such return continues.

However, the penalty imposed under this section shall not exceed Rs. 5,000/-.

Similarly, if any person who is required to furnish any information or return under section 151,—

- (a) without reasonable cause fails to furnish such information or return as may be required under that section, or
- (b) wilfully furnishes or causes to furnish any information or return which he knows to be false,

then, he shall be punishable with a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and in case of a continuing offence to a further fine which may extend to Rs. 100 for each day after the first day during which the offence continues subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 25,000.

General disciplines related to penalty, General Penalty and Waiver of penalty (Section 125-128)

Section 125-128 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q9. What are the general guidelines to be followed while imposing penalties?

Ans. The general guidelines to be followed while imposing penalties are as under:

- Substantial penalties shall not be imposed for minor breaches of tax regulations or procedural requirements.
- No penalty in respect of any omission or mistake in documentation which is easily rectifiable and obviously made without fraudulent intent or gross negligence shall be greater than necessary to serve merely as a warning.
- The penalty imposed shall depend on the facts and circumstances of the case and shall commensurate with the degree and severity of the breach

Q10. What are the acts which are considered as minor breach?

Ans. In terms of explanation to Section 126(1), a breach shall be considered a 'minor breach' if the amount of tax involved is less than five thousand rupees.

Q11. Where a person voluntarily disclosed information whether in such cases the same could be a factor to reduce the penalties?

Ans. In terms of Section 126(5) where a person voluntarily discloses to a tax authority the circumstances of a breach of the tax law, regulation or procedural requirement prior to the discovery of the breach by the tax authority, the tax authority may consider this fact as a potential mitigating factor when quantifying a penalty for that person.

Q12. When general penalty under GST law under section 125 could be imposed?

Ans. Section 125 provides for general penalty which may extend to Rs. 25,000/- on any person, who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or any rules made thereunder. This penalty would be applicable only where no penalty is separately provided for in this Act.

Q13. Whether penalties imposed under this Act could be waived?

Ans. In terms of Section 128 the Government may, by notification, waive in part or full, any penalty referred to in section 122 or section 123 or section 125 or any late fee referred to in section 47 for such class of taxpayers and under such mitigating circumstances as may be specified therein on the recommendations of the Council.

Detention, seizure and release of goods and conveyances in transit (Section 129)

Section 129 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q14. Whether officer appointed under GST law has power to detain / seize the goods? When such detention or seizure could be undertaken?

Ans. Where any person transports any goods or stores any goods while they are in transit in contravention of the provisions of the GST Act or rules made thereunder, all such goods and the conveyance used as a means of transport for carrying the said goods and documents relating to such goods and conveyances shall be liable to detention or seizure.

Q15. Under what circumstances the detained goods and conveyance seized could be released?

Ans. The goods/ conveyance could be released under the following circumstances:

- (a) on payment of the applicable tax and penalty equal to 100% of the tax payable on such goods, and in case of exempted goods on payment of an amount equal to 2% of the value of goods or twenty-five thousand rupees, whichever is less where the owner of the goods comes forward for payment of such tax and penalty;
- (b) on payment of the applicable tax and penalty equal to the fifty percent of the value of the goods reduced by the tax amount paid thereon, and, in case of exempted goods, on payment of an amount equal to five per cent. of the value of goods or twenty-five thousand rupees, where **the owner of the goods does not come forward** for payment of such tax and penalty.
- (c) upon furnishing a security equivalent to the amount payable under clause (a) or clause (b) in such form and manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that no such goods or conveyance shall be detained or seized without serving an order of detention or seizure on the person transporting the goods.

Q16. What is the procedure to be followed for release of goods / conveyance or documents seized?

Ans. In order to release the goods / documents or conveyance the proper officer shall issue a notice specifying the tax payable and thereafter, pass an order for payment of tax and penalty as detailed above after giving reasonable opportunity of hearing to the concerned person.

On payment of the amount referred to above, all liabilities under this section shall stand discharged in respect of such goods and such conveyance.

Q17. Is there any time limit within which the release could be sought?

Ans. Tax and penalty as prescribed in Section 129(1) shall be paid within 7 days of the date of detention to get the goods released.

Q18. Is there any separate time limit for perishable goods?

Ans. Where the detained goods are perishable or hazardous in nature or are likely to depreciate in value with passage of time, the proper officer may reduce the said time period to period less than seven days.

Q19. What are the consequences for nonpayment of the tax and penalty amount for detained or seized?

Ans. Where the owner or the person transporting the goods does not pay the amounts prescribed (tax plus penalty) and get the goods released within 7 days then in such cases then the further proceedings shall be initiated in accordance with the provisions of section 130.

Confiscation of goods and/or conveyances and levy of penalty (Section 130)

Section 130 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q20. What are the circumstances under which the goods or conveyances could be confiscated?

Ans. Under following circumstances, goods / conveyance could be confiscated by the proper officer under GST provisions:

- (i) where a person supplies any goods in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder with intent to evade payment of tax; or
- (ii) where a person receives any goods in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder with intent to evade payment of tax; or
- (iii) where a person does not account for any goods on which he is liable to pay tax under this Act; or

- (iv) where a person supplies any goods which are liable to tax under this Act without having applied for registration; or
- (v) where a person contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder with intent to evade payment of tax; or
- (vi) where a person uses any conveyance as a means of transport for carriage of taxable goods in contravention of the provisions of the Act or rules made thereunder unless the owner of the conveyance proves that it was so used without the knowledge or connivance of the owner himself or through his agent.

Q21. Whether fine could be paid in lieu of confiscation and goods / conveyance for the purpose of release?

Ans.

- the officer adjudging the matter shall give to the owner of the goods an option to pay a fine in lieu of confiscation. The fine shall not exceed the market value of the goods confiscated, less the tax chargeable thereon
- where owner of goods is not known, such option could be given to the person from whose possession or custody such goods have been seized;
- The aggregate of such fine and penalty leviable shall not be less than the amount of penalty of 100% of the tax (if paid by owner) or 50% of the value of goods less tax (where it is paid by person other than owner in terms of Section 129(1))
- In case where conveyance is confiscated, and such conveyance is used for the carriage of the goods or passengers for hire, the owner of the conveyance shall be given an option to pay in lieu of the confiscation of the conveyance a fine equal to the tax payable on the goods being transported thereon.
- Where any fine in lieu of confiscation of goods or conveyance is imposed, the person (owner or other person) shall be liable to pay any tax and charges payable in respect of such goods in addition to the fine.

Q22. How should the officer handle the goods / conveyance confiscated?

Ans.

- The title of goods and/or conveyance which are confiscated under CGST Act, shall vest in the Government.
- The proper officer adjudging confiscation shall take and hold possession of the things confiscated and every officer of Police, on the requisition of such proper officer, shall assist him in taking and holding such possession.
- The proper officer may, after satisfying himself that the confiscated goods and conveyance are not required in any other proceedings under this Act and after giving reasonable time not exceeding three months to pay fine in lieu of confiscation, dispose such goods and/or conveyances and deposit the sale proceeds thereof with the Government.

Q23. Whether prosecution or other punishments could also be initiated along with confiscation or penalty?

Ans. In terms of section 131 confiscation made or penalty imposed under the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall not prevent the infliction of any other punishment to which the person affected thereby is liable under the provisions of this Act or under any other law.

Punishment for certain offences (Section 132 – 133)

Section 132-133 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q24. Which are the offences which warrant prosecution?

Ans. Following are the offences which attract prosecution:

- (a) Making a supply without issue of an invoice or grossly mis-declaring the description of the supply on invoice, in contravention of this Act, to intentionally evade tax ;
- (b) Issues any invoice or bill without supply in violation of the provisions of this Act/rules made thereunder leading to wrongful availment of credit or refund of tax
- (c) avails input tax credit using such invoice or bill referred to above;
- (d) Collects any amount as tax but fails to pay the same to the credit of the Government beyond a period of three months from the date on which such payment becomes due;
- (e) evades tax, fraudulently avails input tax credit or fraudulently obtains refund and where such offence is not covered under instances (1) to (4) above;
- (f) Falsification or substitution of financial records or producing fake accounts, documents or furnishes any false information with an intention to evade payment of tax;
- (g) Obstruct or prevents any officer in the discharge of his duties;
- (h) Acquires possession of or transporting, removing, depositing, keeping, concealing, supplying, or purchasing or dealing in any other manner with any goods which he knows or has reason to believe that such goods are liable to confiscation under this Act or the rules made thereunder;
- (i) Receives or deals with any supply of services which he knows or has reason to believe are in contravention of any provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder
- (j) Tamper with or destroys any material evidence or documents
- (k) Fails to supply any information which he is required to supply under this Act or

the rules made thereunder or (unless with a reasonable belief, the burden of proving which shall be upon him, that the information supplied by him is true) supplies false information,

- (l) Attempts to commit or abets the commission of any of the offences mentioned above.

Q25. What is the punishment prescribed on commission of offences which warrant prosecution?

Ans.

Offences	Punishment
Tax evaded / Wrong availment or utilisation of input tax credit / Amount of Refund wrongly taken exceeding (Rs.500 lakh)Five hundred lakh rupees	Five years imprisonment with Fine
Tax evaded / Wrong availment or utilisation of input tax credit / Amount of Refund wrongly taken exceeding (Rs.250 Lakh) Two hundred and Fifty Lakh rupees but does not exceed (Rs.500 lakh)Five hundred lakh rupees	Three years imprisonment with Fine
Tax evaded / Wrong availment or utilisation of input tax credit / Amount of Refund wrongly taken exceeding (Rs 250 Lakh) Two Hundred and Fifty Lakh rupees but does not exceed (Rs.100 lakh) one hundred lakh rupees	One year imprisonment with Fine
Commits or abets in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falsification or substitution of financial records or producing fake accounts, documents or furnishes any false information with an intention to evade payment of tax; • Obstruction or prevention any officer in the discharge of his duties • Tampering with or destroying any material evidence or documents; 	Six months imprisonment or Fine or both

Q26. What is the scenario if a person convicted for an offence under section 132 is again convicted of an offence under the same section?

Ans. Such person shall be punishable for the second and for every subsequent offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine.

Q27. What are cognizable and non-cognizable offences?

Ans.

Cognizable and Non-bailable	Non-cognizable
<p>Following offences which attract imprisonment which may extend to 5 years would be cognizable and non bailable in terms of Section 132(5):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Making a supply without issue of an invoice or grossly mis-declaring the description of the supply on invoice, in contravention of this Act, to intentionally evade tax ; 2) Issues any invoice or bill without supply in violation of the provisions of this Act/rules made thereunder leading to wrongful availment of credit or refund of tax 3) Avails input tax credit using such invoice or bill referred to above; 4) Collects any amount as tax but fails to pay the same to the credit of the Government beyond a period of three months from the date on which such payment becomes due; 	<p>All other offences specified under Sec 132 apart from those mentioned as cognizable/non bailable shall be non cognizable/ bailable in terms of Section 132(4)</p>

Q28. Whether prior sanction of the designated authority is compulsory for prosecution?

Ans. Yes. No person shall be prosecuted for any offence under this section without prior sanction of the Commissioner

Q29. Whether tax evaded under State GST Act or IGST Act would also be taken in to account for the purpose of the prosecution?

Ans. Yes. In terms of explanation to Section 132 the term tax has been defined to include amount of tax evaded or the amount of input tax credit wrongly availed or utilised or refund wrongly taken under the provisions of this Act, the State Goods and Services Tax Act, the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act or the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Act and cess levied under the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act.

Q30. Whether persons other than assessee could also be prosecuted under the CGST Act, 2017?

Ans. Yes. In terms of the Section 133 the following persons would be liable for prosecution for the offences specified below:

Persons liable for prosecution	Nature of offence	Prosecution
Person engaged in connection with the collection of statistics under section 151	wilfully discloses any information or the contents of any return furnished under this Act or rules made thereunder otherwise than in execution of his duties under the said sections or for the purposes of prosecution for an offence under this Act or under any other Act for the time being in force,	The guilty person shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with both
Person engaged in compilation or computerisation thereof or if any officer of central tax having access to information specified under sub-section (1) of section 150,		
If any person engaged in connection with the provision of service on the common portal or the agent of common portal,		

Q31. Whether any prior sanction is required to initiate prosecution under the section 133?

Ans. Yes. No person (other than government servant) shall be prosecuted for any offence under this section except with the previous sanction of the Commissioner

Q32. Whether Government employee could also be prosecuted and punished under section 133?

Ans. Yes, Government servant could also be punished. However, where the person punishable is a Government servant he shall not be prosecuted for any offence under this section except with the previous sanction of the Government.

Cognizance of offences and Presumption of culpable mental state (Section-134-136)

Section 134-136 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q33. Can inferior Courts take cognizance of any offence without prior sanction of the competent authority?

Ans. No Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable except with the previous sanction of the Commissioner, and no Court inferior to that of a Magistrate of the First Class, shall try offence mentioned in Section 132.

Q34. Is culpable mental state necessary for prosecution?

Ans. Yes. The Court shall presume the existence of culpable mental state but it shall be a defence for the accused to prove the fact that he had no such mental state with respect to the act charged as an offence in that prosecution.

Q35. What constitutes Culpable mental state?

Ans. Culpable mental state includes

- (a) Intention
- (b) Motive
- (c) Knowledge of the fact
- (d) Belief in or reason to believe a fact

Q36. When is a fact said to be proved under presumption of culpable mental state?

Ans. A fact is said to be proved only when the Court believes it to exist beyond reasonable doubt and not merely when its existence is established by a preponderance of probability.

Q37. What is the relevancy of the statements made and signed before the GST officers?

Ans. A statement made and signed by a person on appearance in response to any summons issued under section 70 during the course of any inquiry or proceedings under this Act shall be relevant, for the purpose of proving, in any prosecution for an offence under this Act, the truth of the facts which it contains-

- (a) when the person who made the statement is dead or cannot be found, or is incapable of giving evidence, or is kept out of the way by the adverse party, or whose presence cannot be obtained without an amount of delay or expense which, under the circumstances of the case, the Court considers unreasonable;
- or

- (b) when the person who made the statement is examined as a witness in the case before the Court and the Court is of the opinion that, having regard to the circumstances of the case, the statement should be admitted in evidence in the interests of justice.

Offences by Companies and certain other persons (Section 137)

Section 137 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q38. What are the consequences of offences committed by Companies and certain other persons?

Ans. When an offence is committed by a company, every person who at the time of offence was committed was in charge of or was responsible to, the company for the conduct of business of the company as well as the company shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be prosecuted against and punished accordingly

Q39. What are the consequences of offences committed by Companies and certain other persons wherein the offence has been committed with the consent of any director, manager, secretary or other officers of the company?

Ans. If offences are committed by Companies and certain other persons wherein the offence has been committed with the consent of any director, manager, secretary or other officers of the company, then such director, manager, secretary or other officers of the company shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Q40. What are the consequences of offences committed by taxable person being a partnership firm or a LLP or HUF or a trust?

Ans. If offences are committed by taxable person being a partnership firm or a LLP or HUF or a trust, the partner or Karta or managing trustee respectively shall deemed to be guilty of offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Q41. What would be the situation if the person proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence?

Ans. Such person shall not be liable to any punishment.

Compounding of offences (Section-138)

Section 138 of CGST Act, made applicable to IGST vide Section 20 of IGST Act and Section 21 of UTGST

Q42. Can offences under this Act be compounded?

Ans. Any offence under this Act be compounded by the competent authority on payment by the person accused of the offence to the Central Government or the State Government of such compounding amount in such manner as may be prescribed.

Q43. What are the offences that cannot be compounded?

Ans. The following offences may not be compounded:

- (a) A person who has been allowed to compound earlier in respect of any offences described as follows:
 - (i) Making a supply without issue of any invoice or grossly mis-declares the description of the supply on invoice, in contravention of this Act, to intentionally evade tax
 - (ii) Issues any invoice or bill without supply in violation of the provisions of this Act/rules made thereunder leading to wrongful availment of credit or refund of duty
 - (iii) Collects any amount as tax but fails to pay the same to the credit of the appropriate Government beyond a period of three months from the date on which such payment becomes due
 - (iv) Collects any tax in contravention of the provisions of this Act but fails to pay the same to the credit of the appropriate government from the date on which such payment becomes due
 - (v) Availing/utilizing input tax credit without actual receipt of goods and/or services either fully or partially in violation of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder
 - (vi) Fraudulently avails input tax credit or evades tax or obtains refund
 - (vii) Falsification or substitution of financial records or producing fake accounts, documents or furnishes any false information with an intention to evade payment of tax
 - (viii) Attempts to commit or abets the commission of any of the offences mentioned above
- (b) A person who has been allowed to compound earlier in respect of any offences described as above in clause (A) under this Act or under any provisions of any other SGST Act or IGST Act in relation to supplies of value exceeding one crore rupees
- (c) Any offence which is also an offence under any other law for time being in force
- (d) A person who has been convicted for an offence under this act by a court
- (e) A person who has been accused of committing an offence as under:
 - (i) Obstruct or prevents any officer in the discharge of his duties
 - (ii) Tamper with or destroys any material evidence or documents
 - (iii) Fails to supply any information which he is required to supply under this Act or the rules made thereunder or (unless with a reasonable belief, the

burden of proving which shall be upon him, that the information supplied by him is true) supplies false information.

Q44. Is compounding of offence made after making payment of tax, interest and penalty involved in such offences?

Ans. Yes. compounding shall be allowed only after making payment of tax, interest and penalty involved in such offences

Q45. Are there any monetary limits prescribed for compounding amount?

Ans. Yes.

The minimum limit for compounding amount is to be the higher of the following amounts:-

- Rs.10,000. Or
- 50% of tax involved,

The upper limit for compounding amount is to be higher of the following amounts:-

- Rs.30,000 or
- 150% of tax involved.

Q46. What happens after the offence has been compounded?

Ans. On payment of such compounding amount, no further proceeding shall be initiated under the act against the accused person in respect of the same offence and any criminal proceedings if already initiated in respect of the said offence shall stand abated.