

Chapter 10

Payment of Tax

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Statutory Provisions

<p>49 Payment of Tax, Interest, Penalty and other Amounts</p> <p>(1) <i>Every deposit made towards tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount by a person by internet banking or by using credit or debit cards or National Electronic Fund Transfer or Real Time Gross Settlement or by such other mode and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed, shall be credited to the electronic cash ledger of such person to be maintained in such manner as may be prescribed.</i></p> <p>(2) <i>The input tax credit as self-assessed in the return of a registered person shall be credited to his electronic credit ledger, in accordance with ¹[section 41 or section 43A], to be maintained in such manner as may be prescribed.</i></p> <p>(3) <i>The amount available in the electronic cash ledger may be used for making any payment towards tax, interest, penalty, fees or any other amount payable under the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder in such manner and subject to such conditions and within such time as may be prescribed.</i></p> <p>(4) <i>The amount available in the electronic credit ledger may be used for making any payment towards output tax under this Act or under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act in such manner and subject to such conditions and within such time as may be prescribed.</i></p>

¹ Substituted vide The Central Goods and Services Tax Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. date yet to be notified

- (5) *The amount of input tax credit available in the electronic credit ledger of the registered person on account of-*
- (a) *integrated tax shall first be utilised towards payment of integrated tax and the amount remaining, if any, may be utilised towards the payment of central tax and State tax, or as the case may be, Union territory tax, in that order;*
 - (b) *the central tax shall first be utilised towards payment of central tax and the amount remaining, if any, may be utilised towards the payment of integrated tax;*
 - (c) *the State tax shall first be utilised towards payment of State tax and the amount remaining, if any, may be utilised towards payment of integrated tax*
²*[Provided that the input tax credit on account of State tax shall be utilised towards payment of integrated tax only where the balance of the input tax credit on account of central tax is not available for payment of integrated tax;]*
 - (d) *the Union territory tax shall first be utilised towards payment of Union territory tax and the amount remaining, if any, may be utilised towards payment of integrated tax;*
³*[Provided that the input tax credit on account of Union territory tax shall be utilised towards payment of integrated tax only where the balance of the input tax credit on account of central tax is not available for payment of integrated tax;]*
 - (e) *the central tax shall not be utilised towards payment of State tax or Union territory tax; and*
 - (f) *the State tax or Union territory tax shall not be utilised towards payment of central tax.*
- (6) *The balance in the electronic cash ledger or electronic credit ledger after payment of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount payable under this Act or the rules made thereunder may be refunded in accordance with the provisions of section 54.*
- (7) *All liabilities of a taxable person under this Act shall be recorded and maintained in an electronic liability register in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (8) *Every taxable person shall discharge his tax and other dues under this Act or the rules made thereunder in the following order, namely:*
- (a) *self-assessed tax, and other dues related to returns of previous tax periods;*
 - (b) *self-assessed tax, and other dues related to the return of the current tax period;*
 - (c) *any other amount payable under this Act or the rules made thereunder including the demand determined under Section 73 or 74.*

² Inserted vide The Central Goods and Services Tax Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. 01.02.2019

³ Inserted vide The Central Goods and Services Tax Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. 01.02.2019

- (9) Every person who has paid the tax on goods or services or both under this Act shall, unless the contrary is proved by him, be deemed to have passed on the full incidence of such tax to the recipient of such goods or services or both.
- Explanation.1- For the purposes of this section,*
- (a) the date of credit to the account of the Government in the authorised bank shall be deemed to be the date of deposit in the electronic cash ledger;
- (b) the expression
- (i) “tax dues” means the tax payable under this Act and does not include interest, fee and penalty; and
- (ii) “other dues” means interest, penalty, fee or any other amount payable under this Act or the rules made thereunder.
- ⁴[(10) A registered person may, on the common portal, transfer any amount of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount available in the electronic cash ledger under this Act, to the electronic cash ledger for integrated tax, central tax, State tax, Union territory tax or cess, in such form and manner and subject to such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed and such transfer shall be deemed to be a refund from the electronic cash ledger under this Act.
- (11) Where any amount has been transferred to the electronic cash ledger under this Act, the same shall be deemed to be deposited in the said ledger as provided in sub-section (1).]

Extract of the CGST Rules, 2017

- 85 Electronic Liability Register**
- (1) The electronic liability register specified under subsection(7) of section 49 shall be maintained in FORM GST PMT-01 for each person liable to pay tax, interest, penalty, late fee or any other amount on the common portal and all amounts payable by him shall be debited to the said register.
- (2) The electronic liability register of the person shall be debited by-
- (a) the amount payable towards tax, interest, late fee or any other amount payable as per the return furnished by the said person;
- (b) the amount of tax, interest, penalty or any other amount payable as determined by a proper officer in pursuance of any proceedings under the Act or as ascertained by the said person;
- (c) the amount of tax and interest payable as a result of mismatch under section 42 or section 43 or section 50; or
- (d) any amount of interest that may accrue from time to time.

⁴ Inserted vide The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019 w.e.f. 01.01.2020.

- (3) Subject to the provisions of section 49, section 49A and section 49B, payment of every liability by a registered person as per his return shall be made by debiting the electronic credit ledger maintained as per rule 86 or the electronic cash ledger maintained as per rule 87 and the electronic liability register shall be credited accordingly.
- (4) The amount deducted under section 51, or the amount collected under section 52, or the amount payable on reverse charge basis, or the amount payable under section 10, any amount payable towards interest, penalty, fee or any other amount under the Act shall be paid by debiting the electronic cash ledger maintained as per rule 87 and the electronic liability register shall be credited accordingly.
- (5) Any amount of demand debited in the electronic liability register shall stand reduced to the extent of relief given by the appellate authority or Appellate Tribunal or court and the electronic tax liability register shall be credited accordingly.
- (6) The amount of penalty imposed or liable to be imposed shall stand reduced partly or fully, as the case may be, if the taxable person makes the payment of tax, interest and penalty specified in the show cause notice or demand order and the electronic liability register shall be credited accordingly.
- (7) A registered person shall, upon noticing any discrepancy in his electronic liability ledger, communicate the same to the officer exercising jurisdiction in the matter, through the common portal in FORM GST PMT-04.

86 Electronic Credit Ledger

- (1) The electronic credit ledger shall be maintained in FORM GST PMT-02 for each registered person eligible for input tax credit under the Act on the common portal and every claim of input tax credit under the Act shall be credited to the said ledger.
 - (2) The electronic credit ledger shall be debited to the extent of discharge of any liability in accordance with the provisions of section 49 ⁵[or section 49A or section 49B]
 - (3) Where a registered person has claimed refund of any unutilized amount from the electronic credit ledger in accordance with the provisions of section 54, the amount to the extent of the claim shall be debited in the said ledger.
 - (4) If the refund so filed is rejected, either fully or partly, the amount debited under sub rule (3), to the extent of rejection, shall be re-credited to the electronic credit ledger by the proper officer by an order made in FORM GST PMT-03.
- ⁶[(4A) Where a registered person has claimed refund of any amount paid as tax wrongly paid or paid in excess for which debit has been made from the electronic credit ledger, the

⁵ Inserted vide Notf no. 03/2019-CT dt. 29.01.2019 wef 01.02.2019

⁶ Inserted vide Notf no. 16/2020-CT dt. 23.03.2020

said amount, if found admissible, shall be re-credited to the electronic credit ledger by the proper officer by an order made in FORM GST PMT-03.]

- (5) *Save as provided in the provisions of this Chapter, no entry shall be made directly in the electronic credit ledger under any circumstance.*
- (6) *A registered person shall, upon noticing any discrepancy in his electronic credit ledger, communicate the same to the officer exercising jurisdiction in the matter, through the common portal in FORM GST PMT-04.*

Explanation.– For the purposes of this rule, it is hereby clarified that a refund shall be deemed to be rejected, if the appeal is finally rejected or if the claimant gives an undertaking to the proper officer that he shall not file an appeal.

7[86A Conditions of use of amount available in electronic credit ledger

- (1) *The Commissioner or an officer authorised by him in this behalf, not below the rank of an Assistant Commissioner, having reasons to believe that credit of input tax available in the electronic credit ledger has been fraudulently availed or is ineligible in as much as-*
- (a) *the credit of input tax has been availed on the strength of tax invoices or debit notes or any other document prescribed under rule 36-*
- (i) *issued by a registered person who has been found non-existent or not to be conducting any business from any place for which registration has been obtained; or*
- (ii) *without receipt of goods or services or both; or*
- (b) *the credit of input tax has been availed on the strength of tax invoices or debit notes or any other document prescribed under rule 36 in respect of any supply, the tax charged in respect of which has not been paid to the Government; or*
- (c) *the registered person availing the credit of input tax has been found non-existent or not to be conducting any business from any place for which registration has been obtained; or*
- (d) *the registered person availing any credit of input tax is not in possession of a tax invoice or debit note or any other document prescribed under rule 36, may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, not allow debit of an amount equivalent to such credit in electronic credit ledger for discharge of any liability under section 49 or for claim of any refund of any unutilised amount.*
- (2) *The Commissioner, or the officer authorised by him under sub-rule (1) may, upon being satisfied that conditions for disallowing debit of electronic credit ledger as above, no longer exist, allow such debit.*

⁷ Inserted vide Notf no. 75/2019 – CT dt 26.12.2019

(3) Such restriction shall cease to have effect after the expiry of a period of one year from the date of imposing such restriction.]

87 Electronic Cash Ledger

(1) The electronic cash ledger under sub-section (1) of section 49 shall be maintained FORM GST PMT-05 for each person, liable to pay tax, interest, penalty, late fee or any other amount, on the common portal for crediting the amount deposited and debiting the payment therefrom towards tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount.

(2) Any person, or a person on his behalf, shall generate a challan in FORM GST PMT-06 on the common portal and enter the details of the amount to be deposited by him towards tax, interest, penalty, fees or any other amount:

⁸[Provided that the challan in FORM GST PMT-06 generated at the common portal shall be valid for a period of fifteen days.

⁹~~[Provided further that a person supplying online information and database access or retrieval services from a place outside India to a non-taxable online recipient referred to in section 14 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (13 of 2017) may also do so through the Board's payment system namely, Electronic Accounting System in Excise and Service Tax from the date to be notified by the Board.]]~~

(3) The deposit under sub-rule (2) shall be made through any of the following modes namely:-

- (i) Internet Banking through authorised banks;
- (ii) Credit card or Debit card through the authorised bank;
- (iii) National Electronic Fund Transfer or Real Time Gross Settlement from an bank;
or
- (iv) Over the Counter payment through authorised banks for deposits up to ten thousand rupees per challan per tax period, by cash, cheque or demand draft:

Provided that the restriction for deposit up to ten thousand rupees per challan in case of an Over the Counter payment shall not apply to deposit to be made by –

- (a) Government Departments or any other deposit to be made by persons as maybe notified by the Commissioner in this behalf;
- (b) Proper officer or any other officer authorised to recover outstanding due from any person, whether registered or not, including recovery made through attachment or sale of movable or immovable properties;

⁸ Inserted vide Notf no. 22/2017 – CT dt 17.08.2017

⁹ Omitted vide Notf no. 31/2019 – CT dt. 28.06.2019

(c) Proper officer or any other officer authorised for the amounts collected by way of cash, cheque or demand draft during any investigation or enforcement activity or any ad hoc deposit:

¹⁰[Provided further that a person supplying online information and database access or retrieval services from a place outside India to a non-taxable online recipient referred to in section 14 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (13 of 2017) may also make the deposit under sub-rule (2) through international money transfer through Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication payment network, from the date to be notified by the Board]

Explanation.— For the purposes of this sub-rule, it is hereby clarified that for making payment of any amount indicated in the challan, the commission, if any, payable in respect of such payment shall be borne by the person making such payment.

- (4) Any payment required to be made by a person who is not registered under the Act, shall be made on the basis of a temporary identification number generated through the common portal.
- (5) Where the payment is made by way of National Electronic Fund Transfer or Real Time Gross Settlement mode from any bank, the mandate form shall be generated along with the challan on the common portal and the same shall be submitted to the bank from where the payment is to be made:
- Provided that the mandate form shall be valid for a period of fifteen days from the date of generation of challan*
- (6) On successful credit of the amount to the concerned government account maintained in the authorised bank, a Challan Identification Number shall be generated by the collecting bank and the same shall be indicated in the challan.
- (7) On receipt of the Challan Identification Number from the collecting bank, the said amount shall be credited to the electronic cash ledger of the person on whose behalf the deposit has been made and the common portal shall make available a receipt to this effect.
- (8) Where the bank account of the person concerned, or the person making the deposit on his behalf, is debited but no Challan Identification Number is generated or generated but not communicated to the common portal, the said person may represent electronically in FORM GST PMT-07 through the common portal to the bank or electronic gateway through which the deposit was initiated.

¹⁰ Inserted vide Notf no. 22/2017 – CT dt 17.08.2017

- (9) Any amount deducted under section 51 or collected under section 52 and claimed ¹¹~~in FORM GSTR-02~~ by the registered taxable person from whom the said amount was deducted or, as the case may be, collected shall be credited to his electronic cash ledger ¹²~~in accordance with the provisions of rule 87~~.
- (10) Where a person has claimed refund of any amount from the electronic cash ledger, the said amount shall be debited to the electronic cash ledger.
- (11) If the refund so claimed is rejected, either fully or partly, the amount debited under sub-rule (10), to the extent of rejection, shall be credited to the electronic cash ledger by the proper officer by an order made in FORM GST PMT-03.
- (12) A registered person shall, upon noticing any discrepancy in his electronic cash ledger, communicate the same to the officer exercising jurisdiction in the matter, through the common portal in FORM GST PMT-04.

Explanation 1.—The refund shall be deemed to be rejected if the appeal is finally rejected.

Explanation 2.—For the purposes of this rule, it is hereby clarified that a refund shall be deemed to be rejected, if the appeal is finally rejected or if the claimant gives an undertaking to the proper officer that he shall not file an appeal.

- ¹³[(13) A registered person may, on the common portal, transfer any amount of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount available in the electronic cash ledger under the Act to the electronic cash ledger for integrated tax, central tax, State tax or Union territory tax or cess in FORM GST PMT-09.]

88. Identification number for each transaction

- (1) A unique identification number shall be generated at the common portal for each debit or credit to the electronic cash or credit ledger, as the case may be.
- (2) The unique identification number relating to discharge of any liability shall be indicated in the corresponding entry in the electronic liability register.
- (3) A unique identification number shall be generated at the common portal for each credit in the electronic liability register for reasons other than those covered under sub-rule (2).

¹¹ Omitted vide Notf no. 31/2019 – CT dt. 28.06.2019

¹² Omitted vide Notf no. 31/2019 – CT dt. 28.06.2019

¹³ Inserted vide Notf no. 31/2019 – CT dt. 28.06.2019 wef a date to be notified later—Effective Date Notified vide Notf No. 37/2020 dt. 28.04.2020 as 21st April 2020

¹⁴[88A. Order of utilization of input tax credit

Input tax credit on account of integrated tax shall first be utilised towards payment of integrated tax, and the amount remaining, if any, may be utilised towards the payment of central tax and State tax or Union territory tax, as the case may be, in any order:

Provided that the input tax credit on account of central tax, State tax or Union territory tax shall be utilised towards payment of integrated tax, central tax, State tax or Union territory tax, as the case may be, only after the input tax credit available on account of integrated tax has first been utilised fully.]

Related provisions of the Statute

Section or Rule	Description
Section 2(43)	Electronic Cash Ledger
Section 2(46)	Electronic Credit Ledger
Section 2(62)	Definition of Input Tax
Section 2(82)	Definition of Output Tax
Section 2(94)	Definition of Registered Person
Section 2(97)	Definition of Return
Section 2(117)	Definition of Valid Return
Section 9	Levy and Collection
Section 10 (IGST)	Place of supply of goods other than supply of goods imported into or exported from India
Section 11 (IGST)	Place of supply of goods imported into or exported from India
Section 12 (IGST)	Place of supply of services where location of supplier and recipient is in India
Section 13 (IGST)	Place of supply of services where location of supplier or location of recipient is outside India
Section 16	Eligibility and Conditions for Taking Input Tax Credit
Section 17	Apportionment of Credits and Blocked Credits
Section 39	Furnishing of Returns
Section 41	Claim of Input Tax Credit and Provisional Acceptance thereof

¹⁴ Inserted vide Notf No. 16/2019-CT dt. 29.03.2019

Section 50	Interest on Delayed Payment of Tax
Section 51	Tax deduction at source
Section 54	Refund of tax
Section 77	Tax Wrongfully Collected and Paid to Central or State Government
Section 19 (IGST)	Tax Wrongfully Collected and Paid to Central or State Government

49.1 Introduction

This section provides for the following:

1. Methodology or mode of payment of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount by a taxable person,
2. This section prescribes maintenance of three kinds of ledgers by the taxable person.
 - (a) Electronic Cash Ledger;
 - (b) Electronic Input Tax Credit Ledger or Electronic Credit Ledger;
 - (c) Electronic Tax Liability Register.
3. The section further provides for availability of credit in the cash ledger or the credit ledger depending on the payment made by the taxable person or filling of return.
4. It provides for utilization of credit and prescribes the method of cross utilization of credit amongst IGST and CGST, IGST and SGST or UTGST
5. Transfer of input tax credit from CGST to IGST account when CGST is utilized for payment of IGST; similar provisions are enacted in SGST Act and UTGST Act as well.

49.2 Analysis

A. ELECTRONIC CASH LEDGER:

The provisions regarding Electronic Cash Ledger and amounts credited into this ledger are dealt with in sub-Section (1) & (3) of Section 49 of the CGST Act.

1. Deposit of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount by a taxable person can be made by the following modes: -
 - Internet Banking
 - Credit /Debit cards
 - National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT)
 - Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)

- Over the Counter payment (OTC) through authorized banks for deposits up to ten thousand rupees per challan per tax period, by cash, cheque or demand draft. This amount restriction is not applicable to remittances by
- Government Departments
 - Proper Officer or any other Officer recovering outstanding dues or during any investigation or enforcement activity or ad hoc deposit
 - International money transfer through Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication payment network- for person supplying online information and database access or retrieval services from a place outside India to a non-taxable online recipient
- Any other mode as may be prescribed.
2. The 'deposit' made by one of the above-mentioned modes will be credited to the Electronic Cash Ledger of the taxable person. This ledger shall be maintained in **FORM GST PMT-05**
 3. Any person, or a person on his behalf, shall generate a challan in **FORM GST PMT-06** on the Common Portal and enter the details of the amount to be deposited by him towards tax, interest, penalty, fees or any other amount
 4. The challan in **FORM GST PMT-06** generated on the Common Portal shall be valid for a period of fifteen days
 5. A person supplying online information and database access or retrieval services from a place outside India to a non-taxable online recipient may also do so through the Boards payment system namely, Electronic Accounting System in Excise and Service Tax from the date to be notified by the Board.
 6. Any payment required to be made by a person who is not registered under the Act, shall be made on the basis of a temporary identification number generated through the Common Portal.
 7. Date of credit into the account of the Government is deemed to be the **date of deposit** (not the actual date of debit to the account of the taxable person).
 8. On successful credit of the amount to the concerned government account maintained in the authorised bank, a Challan Identification Number (CIN) will be generated by the collecting Bank and the same shall be indicated in the challan.
 9. Where the bank account of the person concerned, or the person making the deposit on his behalf, is debited but no Challan Identification Number (CIN) is generated or generated but not communicated to the Common Portal, the said person may represent electronically in **FORM GST PMT-07** through the Common Portal to the Bank or electronic gateway through which the deposit was initiated.

10. The amount available in the Electronic Cash Ledger may be used for making any payment towards tax, interest, penalty, fees or any other amount payable for the same head under the provisions of the Act or Rules.
11. Any payment made towards respective Account Heads shall only be utilized for offset of liability of that head of account. For example, if IGST is paid through a Challan, then this cash balance against IGST in the cash ledger shall only be utilized for payment of IGST.
12. Any amount deducted under section 51 (TDS by Central / State Government or local authority or Government Agencies) or collected under section 52 (TCS by e-commerce operator) on the registered taxable person from whom the said amount was deducted or, as the case may be, collected shall be credited to his electronic cash ledger.
13. Concept of unjust enrichment always works together with a presumption provision. Section 49(9) contains such a presumption that tax is presumed to have been passed on. Please note that is a rebuttable presumption as it is not an assumption made in the law.
14. Under the powers vested by Sub Section (10) of Section 49 read with Sub Rule (13) of Rule 87, any balance in the electronic cash ledger available under any head can be transferred to any other head within cash ledger. This transfer may be done using **FORM GST PMT-09**. For example, cash balance under CGST tax head may be transferred to SGST or IGST tax as desired by the registered person.
15. Such amount transferred shall be deemed as deposit of tax to the electronic cash ledger under the head to which such transfer takes place.

B. ELECTRONIC CREDIT LEDGER

1. Sub Section (2) of Section 49 of the CGST Act provides that the self-assessed Input Tax Credit as per return filed by a taxable person shall be credited to its **Electronic Credit Ledger**.
2. This ledger shall be maintained in **FORM GST PMT-02** for each registered person eligible for input tax credit under the Act on the Common Portal and every claim of input tax credit under the Act shall be credited to the said Ledger.
3. The Electronic credit ledger may include the following:
 - Transitional credit of Excise and Service tax as CGST Credit and State VAT credit as SGST Credit.
 - ITC on inward supplies (including eligible capital goods) from registered tax payers.
 - ITC available based on distribution from input services distributor (ISD).

- ITC on Input of Stock held/ semi-finished goods or finished goods held in stock on the day immediately preceding the date from which the taxpayer became liable to pay tax provided he applies for registration within 30 days from the date of his liability.
- Permissible ITC on inputs held in stock and inputs contained in semi- finished or finished goods held in stock on the day of conversion from composition scheme to regular tax scheme.
- ITC eligible on payment made on reverse charge basis

The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive viz., credit transfers to a recipient in cases of mergers, amalgamations etc.

4. A registered person shall, upon noticing any discrepancy in his electronic credit ledger, is to communicate the same to the officer exercising jurisdiction in the matter, through the Common Portal in **FORM GST PMT-04**
5. Any excess payment or wrong payment of tax has been made by debit to the electronic credit ledger. Post which, refund has been sought by the registered person, then if such refund is found admissible, it shall only be re-credited to the electronic credit ledger by an order in **FORM GST PMT-03**.
6. Blocking of utilization of credit can be done under Rule 86A by Commissioner or authorized officer not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner, if they have reason to believe that the credit has been availed fraudulently or is ineligible. This blocked amount shall not be available for discharge of liability or for claiming refund. This blocking may be done after giving reasons in writing. Such restriction shall be removed by the officer on being satisfied that conditions disallowing credit no longer exists or one year has elapsed from such restriction whichever is earlier.

COMMON POINTS FOR ELECTRONIC CASH & CREDIT LEDGER

1. Where a person has claimed refund of any amount from the electronic cash or credit ledger, the said amount shall be debited to the electronic cash or credit ledger
2. If the refund so claimed is rejected, either fully or partly, the amount debited earlier, to the extent of rejection, shall be credited to the electronic cash or credit ledger by the proper officer by an order made in **FORM GST PMT-03**.

MANNER OF UTILISATION OF ITC AND CROSS UTILIZATION

1. The amount available in the electronic credit ledger may be utilized for effecting payment towards output tax payable under the Act or Rules. The manner of utilization, conditions and time lines is specifically prescribed.

2. The **Electronic Credit Ledger** has the following (cross) credit utilization arrangement

Credit of:	Allowed for Payment of		
	IGST	CGST	SGST
IGST	✓ (1)	✓ (2)	✓ (3)
CGST	✓ (2)	✓ (1)	
SGST	✓ (2)		✓ (1)

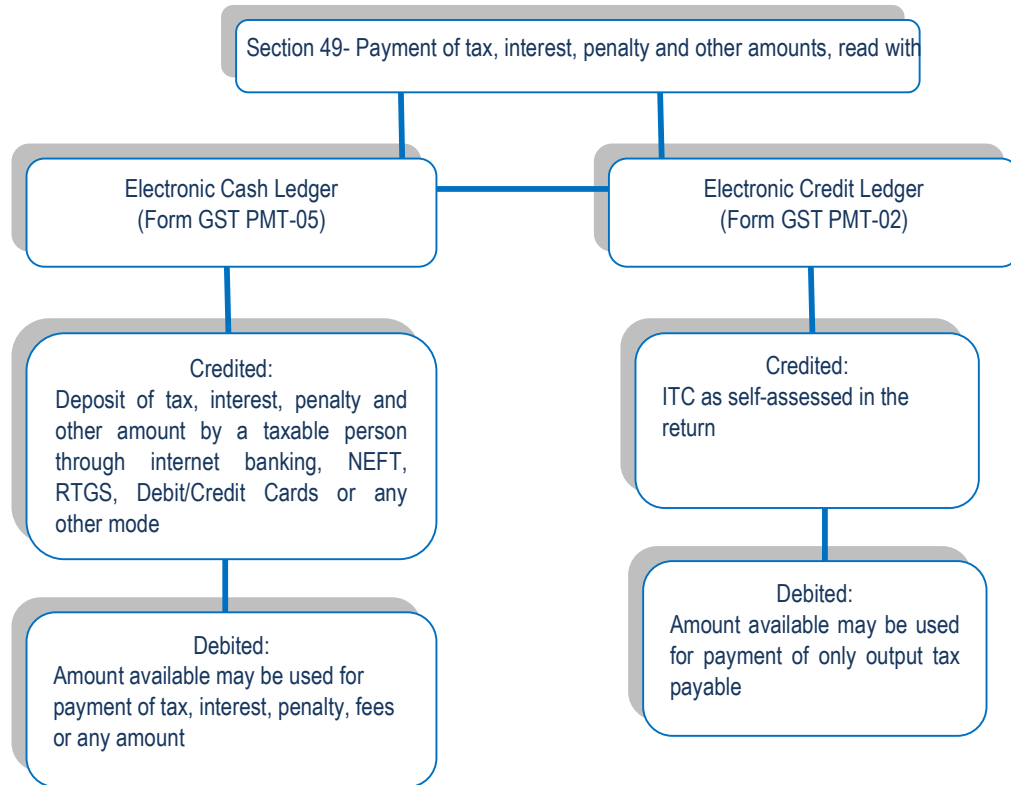
3. The proviso to sub-section 5 of section 49 shall be inserted vide the CGST (Amendment) Act, 2018 (No.31 of 2018) published in the Official Gazette on 30th August, 2018 read as “ *Provided that the input tax credit on account of State tax / union territory tax shall be utilized towards payment of integrated tax only where the balance of the input tax credit on account of central tax is not available for payment of integrated tax;*”
4. Rule 88A has given the order of utilization that IGST input tax credit first shall be used against IGST liability and any remaining credit of IGST may be utilized against CGST or SGST/UTGST liability in any order as desired by the registered person.
5. Once the IGST credit is exhausted only then the other input tax credits may be utilized.
6. Hence cross-utilization of credit is available meaning it can be effected only **in that order**. The important restriction is that the CGST credit cannot be utilized for payment of SGST or UTGST and vice versa. One may note the fact that IGST credit is available seamlessly, subject to order of utilization as mentioned supra.
7. Sub-Section (6) provides that the balance in the cash or credit ledger after payment of tax, interest, penalty, fee or any other amount may be refunded in accordance with the provisions of section 54 (dealing with refunds).
8. A unique identification number shall be generated at the Common Portal for each debit or credit to the electronic cash or credit ledger, as the case may be. The said UIN must be used to discharge tax liability.

C. ELECTRONIC TAX LIABILITY REGISTER:

1. A **Tax Liability Register** is required to be maintained electronically for all liabilities of a taxable person in **FORM GST PMT-01**.
2. This ledger shall be debited by the following amounts (liability is created by debiting)
- the amount payable towards tax, interest, late fee or any other amount payable in separate sub-head as per the return furnished by the said taxable person;
 - the amount of tax, interest, penalty or any other amount payable as determined by a proper officer in pursuance of any proceedings under the Act or as ascertained by the said taxable person;

- the amount of tax and interest payable as a result of mismatch under section 42 or section 43 or section 50; or
 - any amount of interest that may accrue from time to time
 - where Form DRC-03 is being generated for intimation of payment made voluntarily or made against Show Cause Notice, specifying cause of payment
 - o Voluntary
 - o SCN or
 - o Others
 - On generation of Form DRC -03 payment reference number will be generated and found in Part - II of Electronic Liability Register.
3. This ledger shall be credited for the following payments (liability is discharged by crediting)
- Tax Deducted at Source under section 51
 - Tax Collected at Source under section 52
 - Reverse Charge on supply of goods or services under sub- section 3 of section 9 of CGST /SGST Act, sub-section 3 of section 5 of IGST Act and sub section 3 of section 7 of UTGST Act
 - Tax on supplies from unregistered suppliers under sub section 4 of section 9 of CGST/SGST Act, sub section 4 of section 5 of IGST Act and sub section 4 of section 7 of UTGST Act

The entire procedure cited supra can be pictorially depicted as follows:



Order of discharge of tax

Sub-Section (8) prescribes the chronological order in which the tax liability of a taxable person can be discharged:

1. Self-assessed tax and other dues arising out of returns for **previous tax periods** must be discharged first.
2. Self-assessed tax and other dues relating to the return of the **current tax period**.
3. Any other amount payable under the Act/Rules (liability arising out of demand notice or adjudicated proceedings etc.).

Presumption that incidence of tax is passed on

Sub-Section (9) of CGST/SGST Act provides that the incidence of tax on goods/services is **deemed** to have been passed on to the recipient of such goods and /or services when the tax is paid unless the contrary is proved.

49.3 Issues and Concerns:

- (i) Recipient of notified services who is liable to reverse charge, is required to ensure that no tax is charged on the Tax invoice issued by the supplier of notified goods or services and all necessary declarations as required under the tax invoice and input tax credit provisions are complied with.
- (ii) A Person having multiple registrations is required to ensure that payment of tax is made for the registrations against which the tax liability is due. Any incorrect payment will envisage that the correct payment of taxes under the appropriate registration, while such person needs to seek refund from that particular registration under which the said wrong payment is effected. This will impact working capital and obtaining refunds will envisage time and costs.

49.4 Comparative Review

The Electronic Cash Ledger, Electronic Credit Ledger and Tax Liability Register are unique features of the GST law. This would ensure only eligible credits are availed thereby eliminating the need for Forms such as 'C' or 'F' or 'H' etc. (Ref: Relevant provisions of CST Act 1956).

On the other hand, assessee would be expected to reconcile their financial ledgers with the corresponding Electronic ledgers.

49.5 FAQs

Q1. What are the three types of Ledgers to be maintained by a taxable person under the GST Law?

Ans. The three types of ledgers to be maintained are: Electronic credit ledger, electronic cash ledger and electronic tax liability register.

Q2. What are the deposit amounts that need to be reflected in the Electronic Cash Ledger?

Ans. Electronic Cash Ledger shall contain details of every deposit made towards tax, interest, penalty or any other amount (including the Tax Deducted at Source u/s 51 and Tax Collected at Source u/s 52).

Q3. What is meant by Cross-utilization of credit and how is it done in the Electronic Credit Ledger?

Ans. Cross utilization means utilizing Credit of IGST against liabilities of CGST/ SGST/ UTGST or Credit of CGST / SGST / UTGST against IGST. The amount available in the Electronic Credit ledger may be used for making payment towards output tax payable under the Act and Rules made thereunder.

Q.4 What are the major and minor heads of Credit in the Electronic Cash Ledger?

Ans

Major heads		Minor Heads
IGST		Tax
CGST		Interest
SGST		Penalty
UTGST		Any other amount
CESS		Fees

Q5. Is cross-utilization permissible among Major heads in the Electronic Cash Ledger?

Ans. No, cross-utilization is not permissible among major heads in the Electronic Cash Ledger. But there is a facility available on Common portal where excess amount paid under major head can be applied as Refund. Alternatively, using FORM GST PMT-09 the balance in one head may be transferred to another head.

Q6. What are the amounts to be reflected in the Electronic Credit Ledger?

Ans. The input tax credit as self-assessed in the details of inward supplies (Form GSTR-2 originally but currently Form GSTR-3B) of a taxable person shall be reflected in the electronic credit ledger.

Q7. Can direct remittances to the treasury be shown in the Electronic Credit Ledger?

Ans. No, direct remittances to the treasury cannot be shown in the electronic credit ledger. But in case of Import of Goods or Payment made under reverse charge has, where credit needs to be first availed, and then it will be reflected in electronic Credit Ledger.

Q8. What is the order in which tax liability has to be discharged?

Ans. The order in which the liability of a taxable person must be discharged is as under:

1. Self-assessed tax and other dues arising out of returns for previous tax periods must be discharged first.
2. Self-assessed tax and other dues relating to the return of the current tax period.
3. Any other amount payable under the Act/Rules (liability arising out of demand notice or adjudicated proceedings etc.).

49.6 MCQs

Q1. Deposits towards tax, penalty, interest, fee or any other amount are credited into of a taxable person:

- (a) Electronic Credit Ledger
- (b) Tax Liability Register

- (c) Electronic Cash Ledger
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c) Electronic Cash Ledger

Q2. The Input Tax Credit as self-assessed by a taxable person is credited into the

- (a) Electronic Credit Ledger
- (b) Tax Liability Register
- (c) Electronic Cash Ledger
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a) Electronic Credit Ledger

Q3. Cross-Utilization of credit of available IGST after utilization towards payment of IGST is done in the following chronological order:

- (a) CGST then SGST/UTGST
- (b) SGST/UTGST then CGST
- (c) CGST, UTGST/SGST in any order
- (d) None of the Above

Ans. (c) CGST, UTGST/SGST in any order

Q4. Which of the following Statements is true?

- (a) ITC of CGST is first utilized for payment of CGST and the balance is utilized for payment of SGST/UTGST
- (b) ITC of SGST is first utilized for payment of SGST and the balance is utilized for payment of CGST
- (c) ITC of CGST is first utilized for payment of CGST and the balance is utilized for payment of IGST
- (d) None of the Above

Ans. (c) ITC of CGST is first utilized for payment of CGST and the balance is utilized for payment of IGST

Statutory provisions**¹⁵[49A. Utilisation of input tax credit subject to certain conditions**

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 49, the input tax credit on account of central tax, State tax or Union territory tax shall be utilised towards payment of integrated tax, central tax, State tax or Union territory tax, as the case may be, only after the input tax credit available on account of integrated tax has first been utilized fully towards such payment.]

49A.1 Introduction

This section provides for compulsory full utilization of Integrated tax first towards in order of payment i.e IGST, CGST, SGST/UTGST

49A.2 Analysis

The full utilization of IGST credit by taxpayer facilitates the Government the following;

- (a) Reduction of transactions of inter -settlement between the Centre & States
- (b) Self-utilization of IGST deposited in Consolidated Fund of India through payment route of taxpayer instead of post return calculation

However, in few situations it leads to situation wherein taxpayer has to pay SGST in cash while his balance in CGST Credit ledger still lying.

Illustration:

Nature of Tax	Tax liability	ITC available
IGST	100(ip)	200 (ic)
CGST	100 (cp)	50 (cc)
SGST	100 (sp)	50 (sc)

	Tax liability	Option 1		Option 2		
		Paid through ITC	Paid through Cash / Balance Credit	Paid through ITC	Paid through Cash	Balance ITC
IGST	100 (ip)	100 (ic)	Nil	100 (ic)	-	-
CGST	100 (cp)	50 (ic) 50 (cc)	Nil	100 (ic)	-	50 (cc)
SGST	100 (sp)	50 (ic) 50 (sc)	Nil	50 (sc)	50	-

¹⁵ Inserted vide The Central Goods and Services Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. 01.02.2019

Statutory provisions**¹⁶[49B. Order of utilisation of input tax credit**

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Chapter and subject to the provisions of clause (e) and clause (f) of sub-section (5) of section 49, the Government may, on the recommendations of the Council, prescribe the order and manner of utilisation of the input tax credit on account of integrated tax, central tax, State tax or Union territory tax, as the case may be, towards payment of any such tax.”]

49B.1 Introduction

This provision empowers Government on the recommendation of the Council to prescribe order and manner of utilization of the Input tax credit through rules / notification. It will facilitate changes in the mechanism of payment without amendment of law.

Statutory provisions**50. Interest on delayed payment of tax**

(1) *Every person who is liable to pay tax in accordance with the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, but fails to pay the tax or any part thereof to the Government within the period prescribed, shall, for the period for which the tax or any part thereof remains unpaid, pay, on his own, interest at such rate, not exceeding eighteen per cent, as may be notified by the Government, on the recommendation of the Council.*

¹⁷*[Provided that the interest on tax payable in respect of supplies made during a tax period and declared in the return for the said period furnished after the due date in accordance with the provisions of section 39, except where such return is furnished after commencement of any proceedings under section 73 or section 74 in respect of the said period, shall be levied on that portion of the tax that is paid by debiting the electronic cash ledger.]*

(2) *The interest under sub-section (1) shall be calculated, in such manner as may be prescribed, from the day succeeding the day on which tax was due to be paid.*

(3) *A taxable person who makes an undue or excess claim of input tax credit under sub-section (10) of section 42 or undue or excess reduction in output tax liability under sub-section (10) of section 43, shall pay interest on such undue or excess claim or on such undue or excess reduction, as the case may be, at such rate not exceeding twenty four per cent, as may be notified by the Government on the recommendations of the Council.*

¹⁶ Inserted vide The Central Goods and Services Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. 01.02.2019

¹⁷ Inserted vide The Finance (No.) Act, 2019 w.e.f. date to be notified

Related provisions of the Statute

Section or Rule	Description
Section 2(62)	Definition of Input Tax
Section 2(82)	Definition of Output Tax
Section 2(94)	Definition of Registered Person
Section 2(97)	Definition of Return
Section 2(117)	Definition of Valid Return
Section 9	Levy and Collection
Section 16	Eligibility and Conditions for Taking Input Tax Credit
Section 17	Apportionment of Credits and Blocked Credits
Section 39	Furnishing of Returns
Section 42	Matching, reversal and reclaim of input tax credit
Section 43	Matching, reversal and reclaim of reduction in output tax liability
Section 77	Tax Wrongfully Collected and Paid to Central or State Government
Section 19 (IGST)	Tax Wrongfully Collected and Paid to Central or State Government

50.1 Introduction

This section lays down the provisions for payment of interest under the Act for delayed payment of tax.

50.2 Analysis

Section 50 of CGST Act makes it mandatory for a tax payer to pay interest on belated payment of tax i.e. when he fails to pay tax (or any part of tax) to the Government's account within the due date/s.

Interest - When Payable

Interest under section 50 of CGST Act is payable in the following three circumstances

1. Sub-section (1): period for which there is a delay in payment of tax, in full or in part
2. Sub-section (3): Undue or excess claim of input tax credit under section 42 (10) contravening the provisions of section 42(7)
3. Sub-section (3): Undue or excess reduction in output tax liability under section 43 (10) contravening the provisions of section 43(7)

It may be recalled that –

- (a) section 42 (10) CGST/SGST Act deals with contravention of provisions for matching of claims for input tax credit by a recipient and
- (b) section 43 (10) CGST/SGST Act deals with contravention of provisions for matching of claims for reduction in output tax liability by a supplier

Section 42(7) and 43(7) only deals with discrepancies in matching of credits & reduction in output tax liability against credit notes issued, between a supplier / recipient. All other discrepancies that do not relate to matching would attract interest at the higher rate of 24%. For instance if the supplier discloses output taxes in respect of a particular invoice – say after the 30th of September (which is technically the due date for taking of all credits) then the recipient would not be in a position to avail the entire credit in the first place while the supplier would need to pay the output taxes as well as interest. In this situation what would be the rate of interest – 18% pa or at 24% pa. The readers may debate this issue.

Rate of Interest

The actual rates of interest notified by the Government vide *Notification no. 13/ 2017 Central tax Dated 28 June 2017* are as follows:

S. No.	CGST Act, 2017 Sections	Section description	Rate of interest
1	50(1)	Failure to pay tax or part thereof to the Government within period prescribed	18%
2	50(3)	For undue or excess claim of ITC or reduction of output tax liability	24%
3	54(12)	Interest on withheld refund	6%
4	56	Interest on delayed refunds	6%
5	Proviso to 56	Interest on refund arising from order passed by Adjudicating Authority/ Appellate Authority/ Tribunal/ Court and not refunded within 60 days	9%

Manner of Computation of Interest

1. The manner of computation of period for which interest under sub-section (1) or sub-section (3) is to be paid has not been addressed in the Rules. Generally, the period of interest shall be from the date following the due date of payment to the actual date of payment of tax. Payment of tax as per rule 85(3) be considered only when electronic cash ledger or electronic credit ledger of the registered person is being debited. Mere, credit entry in cash ledger or credit ledger will not tantamount to payment of tax.

It may be noted that Section 39 (7) lays down the last date for remittance, as the last date on which the taxable person is required to furnish such return. Also, Section 2

(117) lays down that a return shall be considered valid, only if the tax payable as per the return is paid in full.

2. Sections 73 (5) & 73 (6) provide that if the tax along with interest has been paid, the adjudicating authority shall not serve any show cause notice.
3. Section 73 (8) provides that where a person has been served with show cause notice but has made the payment of tax and penal interest under Section 50 within thirty days of issue of notice, no penalty is payable and all proceedings in respect of that tax amount are deemed to be concluded. The issue is – whether interest is payable u/s 50(1) or 50(3).
4. On a conjoint reading of Sections 50 (1), 73 (5), 73 (6) and 73 (8) of the Act, it is evident that where a person makes a voluntary payment of interest along with belated payment of tax whether admitted on his own or within thirty days from the date of issue of show cause notice, then the proceedings are deemed to be concluded and no penalty is leviable.

Other Important Points to Note

1. The term 'tax' here means the tax payable under the Act or Rules made thereunder.
2. The phrase 'on his own' used in sub-section (1) indicates that such payment of interest should be made voluntarily (i.e.) even without a demand.
3. There are no specific provisions for payment of interest on the interest amount due.
4. The interest payable under this section shall be debited to the Electronic Tax Liability Register as per sub Rule 1 of Rule 85
5. Such liability for interest can be settled by adjustment with balance in Electronic Cash Ledger but not with balance in Electronic Credit Ledger

50.3 Issues and Concerns:

- (i) Unlike Central Excise or Service Tax Law, where interest was to be paid only when CENVAT Credit was *availed and utilised* incorrectly. In a GST regime availing of incorrect input tax credit is sufficient cause to attract the provisions of liability to pay interest. However, due to deferment of GSTR 2 and GSTR 3, section 50(3) may not become operational to demand interest on ineligible credit availed but not utilized.
- (ii) Further, due to section 50(2) stating that the 'manner of computation is to be prescribed' some experts hold the view that until any method is prescribed; merely prescribing the rate of interest would not suffice to demand interest.
- (iii) When there is change in the value of input tax credit (common credit) to be reversed to the extent it relates to exempt turnover on the basis of amounts calculated finally at the end of the financial year is liable to interest immediately from first day of subsequent financial year, whereas Central Excise Act, 1944, Finance Act 1994 read with CENVAT

Credit Rules, 2004 allowed time for reversal without interest upto 30.06 of the subsequent financial year.

- (iv) In previous law amount credited to PLA or paid by challan was considered to be a payment of tax and interest is payable till the amount is paid through challan. In GST interest is to be paid till the electronic cash or electronic credit ledgers are not debited.
- (v) The amendment to Section 50(1) by Finance Act, 2020 and subsequent announcements by GST Council in March 2020 one can expect retrospective changes in Interest in terms of it being applicable only on the net liability. But one has to wait till the legal changes are carried out as well as notified.

50.4 Comparative Review

1. This provision is similar to that in service tax and excise laws. In the case of VAT laws, if the payment of tax and interest is after issuance of show cause notice, it is at the discretion of the adjudicating authority to drop the penalty. Some State VAT laws have mandatory penalty provisions.
2. The view laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in [Prathibha Processors v. UOI (1996) 11 SCC 101] that interest is automatic as it is compensatory in nature and not penal in character, holds good even under the subject Act.

50.5 FAQs

Q1. When is a person liable to pay interest?

Ans. When a person who is liable to pay tax under the provisions of the Act or the respective rules made thereunder, fails to pay the whole/ part of the tax due, to the account of the Government, within the prescribed time, he shall be liable to pay interest.

Q2. How is the interest computed?

Ans. Interest is computed for the period for which the tax remains unpaid at the notified rate not exceeding 18%, i.e., from the date following the day on which tax becomes due to be paid, till the date of payment of tax.

Q3. Is penalty still payable if a person pays the tax and interest as per show cause notice?

Ans. Where the person has made payment of tax and interest under Section 50 within thirty days of issue of the show cause notice, no penalty is payable and all proceedings in respect of that tax amount is deemed to be concluded.

Q4. Is interest leviable on excess reduction of reduction of Output tax liability?

Ans. Yes, interest is also leviable where there is undue or excess reduction in output tax liability under section 43 (10) of CGST Act at the rate of 24% per annum.

Q5. Is a show cause notice or demand required to determine the liability to pay interest?

Ans. No, there is no requirement of demand from the department to determine the interest liability. It is the responsibility of the person liable to pay tax to compute and pay the interest 'on his own'. Though this was the general understanding, it has been held in Mahadeo Construction Co. Vs Union of India (Jharkhand High Court) W.P. (T) No. 3517 of 2019 that even in case of Interest recovery, it can be initiated only after adjudication under Section 73 or 74.

50.6 MCQs

Q1. Interest is payable on: -

- (a) Belated payment of tax
- (b) Undue/excess claim of Input Tax Credit in case matching
- (c) Undue/Excess reduction of output tax liability
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d) All of the above

Q2. Interest is calculated: -

- (a) From the date following the day on which tax becomes due to be paid
- (b) Last day such tax was due to be paid
- (c) No periods specified
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a) from the date following the day on which tax becomes due to be paid

Statutory provisions

51 Tax Deduction at Source

(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, the Government may mandate, —

- (a) a department or establishment of the Central Government or State Government; or
- (b) local authority; or
- (c) Governmental agencies; or
- (d) such persons or category of persons as may be notified by the Government on the recommendations of the Council,

(hereafter in this section referred to as "the deductor"), to deduct tax at the rate of one per cent from the payment made or credited to the supplier (hereafter in this section referred to as "the deductee") of taxable goods or services or both, where the total value of such supply, under a contract, exceeds two lakh and fifty thousand rupees:

Provided that no deduction shall be made if the location of the supplier and the place of supply is in a State or Union territory which is different from the State or as the case may be, Union territory of registration of the recipient.

Explanation.—For the purpose of deduction of tax specified above, the value of supply shall be taken as the amount excluding the central tax, State tax, Union territory tax, integrated tax and cess indicated in the invoice.

- (2) *The amount deducted as tax under this section shall be paid to the Government by the deductor within ten days after the end of the month in which such deduction is made, in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (3) ¹⁸*[A certificate of tax deduction at source shall be issued in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed.]*
- (4) ¹⁹*[If any deductor fails to furnish to the deductee the certificate, after deducting the tax at source, within five days of crediting the amount so deducted to the Government, the deductor shall pay, by way of a late fee, a sum of one hundred rupees per day from the day after the expiry of such five day period until the failure is rectified, subject to a maximum amount of five thousand rupees].*
- (5) *The deductee shall claim credit, in his electronic cash ledger, of the tax deducted and reflected in the return of the deductor furnished under sub-section (3) of section 39, in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (6) *If any deductor fails to pay to the Government the amount deducted as tax under sub-section (1), he shall pay interest in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 50, in addition to the amount of tax deducted.*
- (7) *The determination of the amount in default under this section shall be made in the manner specified in section 73 or section 74.*
- (8) *The refund to the deductor or the deductee arising on account of excess or erroneous deduction shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of section 54:*

Provided that no refund to the deductor shall be granted, if the amount deducted has been credited to the electronic cash ledger of the deductee.

¹⁸ Substituted vide The Finance Act, 2020 w.e.f. date to be notified

¹⁹ Omitted vide The Finance Act, 2020 w.e.f. date to be notified

Related provisions of the Statute

Section or Rule	Description
Section 2(43)	Definition of Electronic Cash Ledger
Section 2(53)	Definition of Government
Section 2(82)	Definition of Output Tax
Section 2(94)	Definition of Registered Person
Section 2(97)	Definition of Return
Section 2(117)	Definition of Valid Return
Section 49	Payment of tax
Section 39	Furnishing of Returns

51.1 Introduction

With an objective of ensuring smooth rollout of GST, the provisions of Tax Deduction at Source (Section 51 of the CGST / SGST Act 2017) and Tax Collection at Source (Section 52 of the CGST/SGST Act, 2017) has been postponed. Thereby, Persons who will be liable to deduct or collect tax at source will be required to take registration, but the liability to deduct or collect tax will arise from the date the respective sections are brought in force. It has further been clarified that persons supplying goods or services through electronic commerce operator liable to collect tax at source would not be required to obtain registration immediately, unless they are so liable under Section 22 or any other category specified under Section 24 of the CGST Act, 2017.

The GST Council in the 26th GST council meeting, held on 10.03.2018 decided that the provisions for TDS under section 51 of the CGST Act and TCS under section 52 of the CGST Act shall remain suspended till 30.06.2018.

Notification No. 33/2017 – Central Tax has appointed 18th September 2017 as the appointed date for sub section 1 of section 51 to come into force and notifies the following persons under Section 51(1)(d) as liable for TDS;

- (a) an authority or a board or any other body, -
 - (i) set up by an Act of Parliament or a State Legislature; or
 - (ii) established by any Government,
 with fifty-one percent or more participation by way of equity or control, to carry out any function;
- (b) society established by the Central Government or the State Government or a Local Authority under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860);
- (c) public sector undertakings:

The Notification also states that TDS provisions shall come into effect **from a date to be notified** subsequently, on the recommendations of the Council, by the Central Government.

Notification No. 50/2018 Central Tax dated 13.09.2018 seeks to bring section 51 of the CGST Act (provisions related to TDS) into force w.e.f 01.10.2018. Reference may be had to circular 76/50/2018-GST dated 31 December, 2018 which makes it clear that the 51% condition is applicable to both limbs of 'authority or board' appearing in notification issued under section 51(1)(d) (under para (a) above).

This section provides for deduction of tax at source in certain circumstances. The Section specifically lists out the deductors who are mandated by the Central Government to deduct tax at source, the rate of tax deduction and the procedure for remittance of the tax deducted. The amount of tax deducted is reflected in the Electronic Cash Ledger of the deductee.

51.2 Analysis

CGST Act vide Section 2 (53) defines the term Government to *mean* the Central Government. Section 51 (1), *ibid* refers to TDS related mandating by 'Government' (Central/State Government). Such mandating shall be for the following persons -

Department or Establishment of Central Government or State Government
Local Authority.
Government Agencies.
Persons or category of persons notified by the Central Government on recommendation of the Council. (Notified vide Notification No. 33/2017- Central Tax)

1. The above 'persons' are referred to as deductors.
2. The deductors have to deduct tax at the rate of 1% CGST & 1% SGST or 2% IGST from the payment made or credited to the supplier of taxable goods and / or services, notified by the Central Government or State Government on the recommendations of the Council. Deduction is required where the total value of supply under 'a contract' exceeds INR 2.5 lakhs. Value of supply shall exclude the tax indicated in the invoice. No deduction shall be made if the location of the supplier and the place of supply is in a State or Union territory which is different from the State or as the case may be, Union territory of registration of the recipient.
3. TDS applies on 'taxable goods or services' supplied and not on 'all taxable supplies'. Please note that 'taxable supplies' is defined in section 2(108) of CGST Act which covers all supplies that are 'leviable' to tax (even if exempt by notification under section 11 of CGST Act). But, 'taxable goods and services' requires to inquire into whether the goods or services are taxable or exempt. If they are exempt, then TDS will not apply.
4. The amount deducted shall be paid to the Central Government within ten days after the end of the month in which such deduction is made.

Sub Rule 9 of rule 87 of the CGST rules provides) that payment shall be made by debiting the electronic cash ledger and crediting the electronic tax liability register.

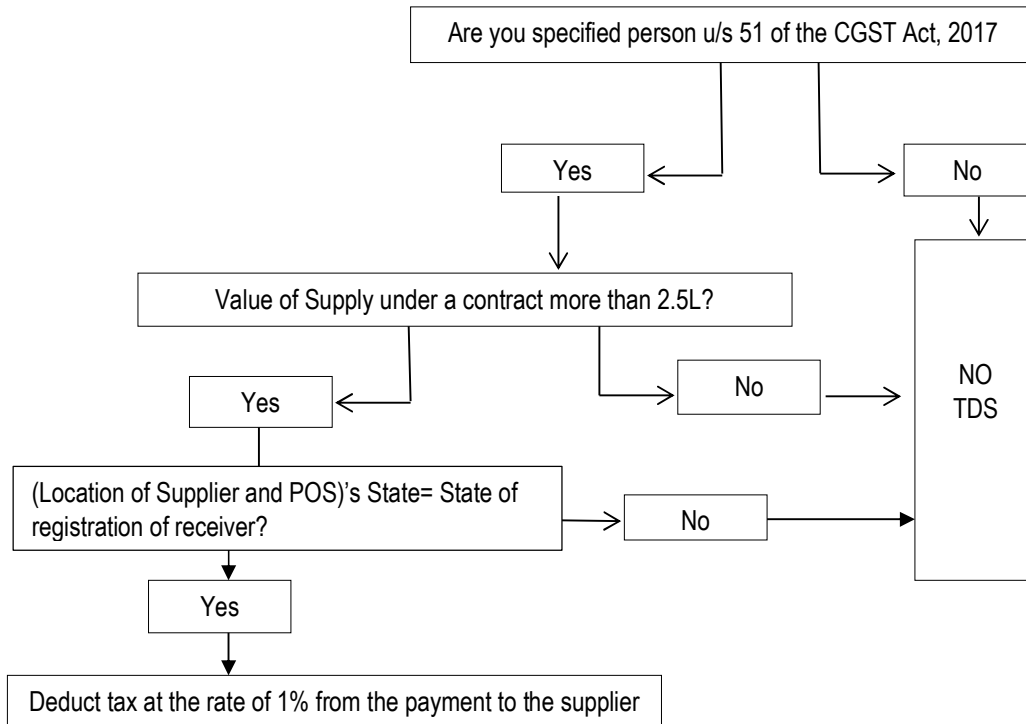
5. As per Rule 66, the deductor shall furnish a TDS certificate in Form GSTR-7A to the deductee mentioning therein the following:
 - (a) contract value
 - (b) rate of deduction
 - (c) Amount deducted
 - (d) Amount paid to the appropriate Government
 - (e) Any other particulars as may be prescribed

This certificate has to be furnished within five days of remittance as mentioned above.

6. Certificate not furnished by the deductor: - If the deductor does not furnish the certificate of deduction-cum- remittance within five days of the remittance, the deductor has to pay a late fee of INR 100 per day from the 6th day until the day he furnishes the certificate. The maximum late fee is prescribed as INR 5000.
7. Non-remittance by the deductor: If the deductor does not remit the amount deducted as TDS, he is liable to pay penal interest under Section 50 in addition to the amount of tax deducted.
8. The amount of tax deducted and reported in the return in Form GSTR-7 by the deductor shall reflect in Electronic Cash Ledger of deductee once it is claimed as credit to the Electronic Cash Ledger by the deductee.

This provision enables the Government to cross-check whether the amount deducted by the deductor is correct and that there is no mis-match between the amounts reflected in the Electronic Cash Ledger as reflected in the return filed by deductor. One may draw easy analogy from existing practice in income tax related E-TDS returns filed by deductor and 26AS statement available for viewing the TDS remitted in respect of his transactions by deductee.

9. Refund on excess collection: The deductor or the deductee can claim refund of excess deduction or erroneous deduction. The provisions of section 54 relating to refunds would apply in such cases. However, if the amount deducted has been credited to the Electronic Cash Ledger of the deductee, the deductor cannot claim refund (only deductee can claim).



1. Value to be taken for the purpose of calculation shall be exclusive of CGST, SGST, IGST, UTGST or Cess

10. As mentioned above, UTGST Act 2017, subject to its own provisions, adopts the provisions in CGST Act in respect of Tax Deduction at Source *mutatis mutandis* (Ref: Sec 21 of UTGST Act).

51.3 Comparative review

Provisions for deduction of tax at source exist in the VAT laws. There were no TDS provisions in central excise or service tax laws, though there was a concept of reverse charge. Under most State VAT laws, TDS provisions were applicable on payments made to works contractors. Some States had provisions for TDS on 'transfer of right to use goods'

Comparative table between State VAT Law and CGST Act:

S. No.	State VAT Law	CGST Act
1.	Applicable only to works contractors.	Applicable to recipients notified by the Central Government on recommendations of GST council.
2.	Two different standard rates	One standard rate viz. 1% CGST + 1% SGST (2% IGST)
3.	Deductor- every works contractee or awarder of contract	(a) A department or establishment of the Central or State Government, or (b) Local authority, or (c) Governmental agencies, or (d) Such persons or category of persons as may be notified, by the Central or a State Government on the recommendations of the Council (Refer Notification 33/2017 – Central Tax and para 51.1)
4.	Two certificates have to be furnished by the Deductor. 1. Certificate of deduction 2. Certificate of remittance.	One single certificate of deduction –cum-remittance to be furnished by the Deductor within five days of remittance.
5.	If certificate of deduction alone is furnished by the Deductor, burden on the works contractor to prove deduction of tax at source.	No such burden cast on the Deductee. More onus is on the Deductor.
6.	Refund provisions and Credit provisions not clear.	Refund provisions clear. Credit can also be claimed from the amount reflected in the Electronic Cash Ledger.
7.	TDS would apply on payments towards transfer of property in goods in the State. Inter-state supplies are generally not subject to TDS.	TDS would apply on the payment made or credited to the supplier.

51.4 FAQs

Q1. Who are the 'persons' who can deduct tax at source under Section 51 of CGST Act?

Ans. The following persons are to deduct tax at source as per the provisions of Section 51 of the CGST Act:

- (a) A department or establishment of the Central or State Government,
- (b) Local authority,
- (c) Governmental agencies,
- (d) an authority or a board or any other body,—
 - (i) set up by an Act of Parliament or a State Legislature; or
 - (ii) established by any Government,
with fifty-one per cent or more participation by way of equity or control, to carry out any function;
- (e) Society established by the Central Government or the State Government or a Local Authority under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860);
- (f) Public sector undertakings:
- (g) Such persons or category of persons as may be notified, by the Central or a State Government on the recommendations of the Council.

Q.2 Under what circumstances can the deductors mentioned in Section 51 deduct tax at source?

Ans. The Deductors u/s 51 are required to deduct tax from the payment made or credited to the supplier of taxable goods and/ or services, notified by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Council, where the total value of such supply, under a contract, exceeds rupees 2.50 lakh. Also no deduction will be made if the location of supplier and the place of supply are in a state which is different from the state of registration of the recipient.

Q3. What is the rate of tax deduction at source?

Ans. The prescribed rate of tax to be deducted at source is 1% CGST plus 1% SGST or 2% IGST from the payment made or credited to the supplier of taxable goods and / or services.

Q4. What is the time limit for remittance of the deducted tax by the deductor into the credit of the Government?

Ans. The amount deducted shall be paid to the credit of the Government within 10 days from the end of the month in which such deduction is made.

Q5. What is the nature of certificate to be furnished by the deductor to the deductee and what is the time limit?

Ans. The Deductor shall furnish a certificate in in Form GSTR-7A mentioning therein the contract value, rate of deduction, amount deducted, amount paid to the appropriate Government and such particulars as may be prescribed in this behalf, to the deductee. This certificate is to be furnished within five days of crediting the amount so deducted to

the appropriate Government, failing which, the deductor would be liable to pay late fee being rupees one hundred per day during which the failure continues but subject to Maximum of rupees 5000 under CGST.

Q6. Can the deductee claim credit of the remittance of TDS amount by the Deductor?

Ans. Yes, the deductee can claim credit of the tax deducted, in his electronic cash ledger. This deduction would also be reflected in the return of the deductor filed under sub-section (3) of Section 39, in the manner prescribed.

Q7. Can tax, once deducted, be claimed as a refund? Who can claim refund?

Ans. Yes, it is possible to claim refund arising on account of excess or erroneous deduction, and this would be governed by the provisions of Section 54.

Such refund may be claimed either by the deductor or the deductee, but not both. Further, no refund would be available to the deductor once the amount deducted has been credited to the electronic cash ledger of the deductee.

Q8. When is the effective date of applicability of TDS provisions?

Ans. 1st Oct 2018 is the effective date for applicability of TDS provisions.

Q9. Whether TDS is liable to be deducted on supply of goods & service from one PSU to another PSU?

Ans. No. TDS is not liable to be deducted by one PSU on another PSU retrospectively 1st Oct 2018 as per the Notification 61/2018 CT dated 05.11.2018.

Q.10 Whether TDS is liable to be deducted on the rate contract where single supply is below INR 2.5 Lacs but during the year cumulative supplies are more than INR 2.5 Lacs.

Ans. No. In case of rate contract it is for the applicable rates for different supply and not contract per se. In such cases where single supply is not greater than INR 2.5 Lacs no need to deduct TDS.

51.6 MCQs

Q1. The deduction of tax by the Deductor under Section 51 of CGST Act is at the rate of:

- (a) 2%
- (b) 3%
- (c) 1%
- (d) None of the above.

Ans. (c) 1%

Q2. The amount of tax deducted by the deductor has to be paid to the credit of the appropriate Government within days after the end of the month in which such deduction is made:

- (a) 20 days
- (b) 10 days
- (c) 15 days
- (d) 5 days

Ans. (b) 10 days

Q3. The time limit for furnishing the deduction –cum- remittance certificate by the deductor to the deductee is:

- (a) 10 days
- (b) 20 days
- (c) 5 days
- (d) None of the above.

Ans. (c) 5 days

Q4. The deductee can claim credit of the remittance made by the Deductor in his,

- (a) Electronic Credit Ledger
- (b) Tax liability Ledger
- (c) Electronic Cash Ledger
- (d) None of the above.

Ans. (c) Electronic Cash Ledger

Q5. If excess or erroneous deduction has been made by the Deductor and this amount is credited to Electronic Cash Ledger of the Deductee, refund can be claimed by,

- (a) Deductor
- (b) Deductee
- (c) Both Deductor and Deductee
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b) Deductee

Q6. Tax deduction shall be made if -

- (a) A contract is for an amount exceeds ₹ 25 lakh
- (b) A supplier supplies goods or services or both exceeding ₹ 2.5 lakh in a year
- (c) A recipient receives goods or services or both exceeding ₹ 2.5 lakh in a year from various contractors
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b) A supplier supplies goods or services or both exceeding ₹ 2.5 lakh in a year

Statutory provisions**52. Collection of tax at Source**

- (1) *Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, every electronic commerce operator (hereafter in this section referred to as the “operator”), not being an agent, shall collect an amount calculated at such rate not exceeding one per cent., as may be notified by the Government on the recommendations of the Council, of the net value of taxable supplies made through it by other suppliers where the consideration with respect to such supplies is to be collected by the operator.*

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “net value of taxable supplies” shall mean the aggregate value of taxable supplies of goods or services or both, other than services notified under sub-section (5) of section 9, made during any month by all registered persons through the operator reduced by the aggregate value of taxable supplies returned to the suppliers during the said month.

- (2) *The power to collect the amount specified in sub-section (1) shall be without prejudice to any other mode of recovery from the operator.*
- (3) *The amount collected under sub-section (1) shall be paid to the Government by the operator within ten days after the end of the month in which such collection is made, in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (4) *Every operator who collects the amount specified in sub-section (1) shall furnish a statement, electronically, containing the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both effected through it, including the supplies of goods or services or both returned through it, and the amount collected under sub-section (1) during a month, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, within ten days after the end of such month.*

²⁰*[Provided that the Commissioner may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by notification, extend the time limit for furnishing the statement for such class of registered persons as may be specified therein:*

Provided further that any extension of time limit notified by the Commissioner of State tax or the Commissioner of Union territory tax shall be deemed to be notified by the Commissioner]

²¹*[Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, it is hereby declared that the due date for furnishing the said statement for the months of October, November and December, 2018 shall be the 7th February, 2019]*

²⁰ Inserted vide The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019 w.e.f. 31.12.2018

- (5) *Every operator who collects the amount specified in sub-section (1) shall furnish an annual statement, electronically, containing the details of outward supplies of goods or services or both effected through it, including the supplies of goods or services or both returned through it, and the amount collected under the said sub-section during the financial year, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, before the thirty first day of December following the end of such financial year.*
- ²²Provided that the Commissioner may, on the recommendations of the Council and for reasons to be recorded in writing, by notification, extend the time limit for furnishing the annual statement for such class of registered persons as may be specified therein:*
- Provided further that any extension of time limit notified by the Commissioner of State tax or the Commissioner of Union territory tax shall be deemed to be notified by the Commissioner]*
- (6) *If any operator after furnishing a statement under sub-section (4) discovers any omission or incorrect particulars therein, other than as a result of scrutiny, audit, inspection or enforcement activity by the tax authorities, he shall rectify such omission or incorrect particulars in the statement to be furnished for the month during which such omission or incorrect particulars are noticed, subject to payment of interest, as specified in sub-section (1) of section 50:*
- Provided that no such rectification of any omission or incorrect particulars shall be allowed after the due date for furnishing of statement for the month of September following the end of the financial year or the actual date of furnishing of the relevant annual statement, whichever is earlier?*
- (7) *The supplier who has supplied the goods or services or both through the operator shall claim credit, in his electronic cash ledger, of the amount collected and reflected in the statement of the operator furnished under sub-section (4), in such manner as may be prescribed.*
- (8) *The details of supplies furnished by every operator under sub-section (4) shall be matched with the corresponding details of outward supplies furnished by the concerned supplier registered under this Act in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.*
- (9) *Where the details of outward supplies furnished by the operator under sub-section*

²¹ Inserted vide Order No. 04/2018-Central Tax dated 17.09.2018

²² Inserted vide The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2019 w.e.f. 31.12.2018

(4) do not match with the corresponding details furnished by the supplier under ²³[section 37 or section 39], the discrepancy shall be communicated to both persons in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.

(10) The amount in respect of which any discrepancy is communicated under sub-section (9) and which is not rectified by the supplier in his valid return or the operator in his statement for the month in which discrepancy is communicated, shall be added to the output tax liability of the said supplier, where the value of outward supplies furnished by the operator is more than the value of outward supplies furnished by the supplier, in his return for the month succeeding the month in which the discrepancy is communicated in such manner as may be prescribed.

(11) The concerned supplier, in whose output tax liability any amount has been added under sub-section (10), shall pay the tax payable in respect of such supply along with interest, at the rate specified under sub-section (1) of section 50 on the amount so added from the date such tax was due till the date of its payment.

(12) Any authority not below the rank of Deputy Commissioner may serve a notice, either before or during the course of any proceedings under this Act, requiring the operator to furnish such details relating to—

(a) supplies of goods or services or both effected through such operator during any period; or

(b) stock of goods held by the suppliers making supplies through such operator in the godowns or warehouses, by whatever name called, managed by such operator and declared as additional places of business by such suppliers,

as may be specified in the notice.

(13) Every operator on whom a notice has been served under sub-section (12) shall furnish the required information within fifteen working days of the date of service of such notice.

(14) Any person who fails to furnish the information required by the notice served under sub-section (12) shall, without prejudice to any action that may be taken under section 122, be liable to a penalty which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expression “concerned supplier” shall mean the supplier of goods or services or both making supplies through the operator.

²³ Substituted vide The Central Goods and Services Tax Amendment Act, 2018 w.e.f. 01.02.2019

Related provisions of the Statute

Section or Rule	Description
Section 2(45)	Definition of Electronic Commerce Operator
Section 2(82)	Definition of Output Tax
Section 2(94)	Definition of Registered Person
Section 24	Compulsory registration in certain cases
Section 49	Payment of tax
Section 50	Interest on delayed payment of tax
Section 122	Penalty for certain offences

52.1 Introduction

This Section provides for collection of tax at source in certain circumstances. The Section specifically lists out the tax collecting persons who are mandated by the Central Government to collect tax at source, the rate of tax collection and the procedure for remittance of the tax collected. The amount of tax collected is reflected in the Electronic Cash Ledger of the person from who tax collected.

Provisions which are common under CGST, UTGST and SGST Act have been analyzed herein.

52.2 Analysis

- (i) Every E-Commerce Operator shall collect TCS at a rate not exceeding 1% on the net value of transaction in which he collects consideration of the supply. Please note that if there is returning of supplies to Suppliers, then the same shall be reduced from the gross value; TCS shall be worked on such net figure only (after such reduction). It is pertinent to note the following definitions here –
 - Section 2 (44), –
“electronic commerce” means the supply of goods or services or both, including digital products over digital or electronic network;
 - Section 2 (45), –
“electronic commerce operator” means any person who owns, operates or manages digital or electronic facility or platform for electronic commerce
- (ii) The amount collected so shall be paid to the Central/State Government respectively within ten days after the end of the month in which such collection is made.
- (iii) In case the E-commerce operator fails to collect to tax under sub-section 1 of section 52 or collects an amount which is less than the amount required to be collected under

said sub-section or where he fails to pay to the government the amount collected as tax under sub-section 3 of section 52, he shall be liable to penalty under clause (vi) of sub-section 1 of section 122 of the Act which may extend to twenty five thousand along with penalty under of i.e. ₹.10,000 or the amount of TCS involved, whichever is higher.

- (iv) E-Commerce operator shall furnish details of outward supplies of goods or services or both made through it, including the supplies returned through it and the amount collected by it in sub-section 1, in Form GSTR-8 within the 10 days after end of the month in which supplies are made.
- (v) The details of tax collected at source furnished by an E-commerce operator under section 52 in Form GSTR-8 shall be made available to the supplier in Part D of FORM GSTR - 2A electronically through the Common Portal and such taxable person may include the same in FORM GSTR-2.”
- (vi) Section 52 (5) of CGST Act requires filing of Annual Statement by E-Commerce operator on or before 31st December following the year end (31st March of relevant year).
- (vii) The amount of tax collected is reflected in Electronic Cash Ledger of supplier since related monthly return is filed by E-Commerce Operator.
- (viii) Any mismatch between the data submitted by the E-Commerce operator in his monthly returns and that of suppliers making supplies through him shall cause due ‘mismatch enquiry’ from the proper officer; and either party may rectify the erroneous data. If rectification is not carried out by supplier his offences get confirmed. Short remittance, if any, identified thus will have to be paid by erring supplier (who under reported the turnover) with interest calculated as per Section 50.
- (ix) Any authority, in the rank of Deputy Commissioner or above it can issue a notice – during, or before a proceeding under this Act - to E Commerce Operator seeking information on –
 - (a) supplies of goods or services or both effected through such operator during any period; or
 - (b) stock of goods held by the suppliers making supplies through such operator in the godowns or warehouses, by whatever name called, managed by such operator and declared as additional places of business by such suppliers, as may be specified in the notice.

This shall be a notice which needs to be responded within 15 days from the date of receipt by the E Commerce Operator. Failure to submit the required details will cause penalty under Section 52 (14) of the Act which may extend to ₹. 25,000.

- (x) UTGST Act 2017, subject to its own provisions, adopts the provisions in CGST Act in respect of Tax Collection at Source *mutatis mutandis* (Ref: Sec 21 of UTGST Act).

52.3 FAQs

- Q1. Who are the 'persons' liable to make collection of tax under Section 52 of CGST Act?
- Ans. E Commerce operator (as defined in Section 2 (45)) is the person to collect the tax on net value of taxable Supplies by him/her.
- Q2. What is a Net Value of Taxable Supplies for the purpose of TCS u/s 52 of the Act?
- Ans. The expression "net value of taxable supplies" shall mean the aggregate value of taxable supplies of goods or services or both, other than services notified under sub-section (5) of section 9, made during any month by all registered persons through the operator reduced by the aggregate value of taxable supplies returned to the supplier during the said month.
- Q3. Which format of monthly return has to be filed by E Commerce Operator?
- Ans. E Commerce operator shall use form GSTR 8 to make statement of outward supplies made through him in that particular month.
- Q4. Whether an E Commerce operator files any annual return? What is the format thereof?
- Ans. Section 52 (5) of CGST Act requires filing of Annual return by E Commerce operator on or before 31st December following the year end (31st March of relevant year). Form GSTR-9B, has not been notified yet.
- Q5. What is the penalty if an E Commerce operator failed to respond as required in a notice issued by Deputy Commissioner or an officer of higher rank?
- Ans. Failure to submit the required details will cause penalty under Section 52 (14) of the Act upto ₹. 25,000. *In addition to this*, penalty under section 122 of the Act 'shall' also be there (₹ 10,000 or the amount of TCS involved, whichever is higher).

52.4 MCQs

- Q1. Tax Collection at Source under Section 52 of CGST Law shall be at the rate of:
- (a) 1%
 - (b) 2%
 - (c) 0.5%
 - (d) A percentage not exceeding 1%.
- Ans. (d) A percentage not exceeding 1%
- Q2. The amount of tax collected by the E Commerce Operator has to be paid to the credit of the appropriate Government within days after the end of the month in which such TCS is made:
- (a) 5 days
 - (b) 10 days

- (c) 15 days
- (d) 20 days

Ans. (b) 10 days

Q3. E Commerce operators should file:

- (a) Monthly returns only
- (b) Annual return only
- (c) Quarterly return only
- (d) Monthly Returns as well as Annual Return

Ans. (d) Monthly Returns as well as Annual Return

Q4. A notice to E Commerce operators seeking information can be issued by:

- (a) Superintendent
- (b) Inspector
- (c) Assistant Commissioner
- (d) Deputy Commissioner

Ans. (d) Deputy Commissioner

Q5. E Commerce operator received notice which sought information as per Section 52 of the CGST Act but the failed to duly respond to the same. The penalty -

- (a) Shall not be there
- (b) Penalty u/s 52 shall be there
- (c) Penalty u/s 122 may be there
- (d) Both the penalty u/s 52 as well as 122 shall be there

Ans. (d) Both the penalty u/s 52 as well as 122 shall be there

Statutory provisions

53. Transfer of input tax credit

On utilisation of input tax credit availed under this Act for payment of tax dues under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (5) of section 49, as reflected in the valid return furnished under sub-section (1) of section 39, the amount collected as central tax shall stand reduced by an amount equal to such credit so utilised and the Central Government shall transfer an amount equal to the amount so reduced from the central tax account to the integrated tax account in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.

Related provisions of the Statute

Section or Rule	Description
Section 2(53)	Definition of Government
Section 2(62)	Definition of input tax
Section 2(82)	Definition of output tax
Section 2(94)	Definition of registered person
Section 39	Furnishing of returns
Section 49	Payment of tax
Section 17 (IGST)	Apportionment of tax and settlement of funds

53.1 Introduction

This Section provides simple but important modus operandi in respect of post CGST/SGST/UTGST utilisation towards IGST liability.

53.2 Analysis

U/s 49 (5) (b) (c) and (d) of the Act, SGST / CGST / UTGST credits can be utilised by a tax payer on priority basis to respective SGST / CGST / UTGST dues first. Then, in case of CGST, balance, if any, can be used pay towards IGST. If used so, there shall be reduction in central tax caused by Central Government and equal credit shall be ensured to IGST in the prescribed manner.

Such treatment shall be ensured by the Central Government for UTGST and SGST also in respective cases.

For better clarity, it may please be noted that equivalent provision is there vide Section 18 of Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act 2017.

53.3 FAQs

Q1. If CGST is utilised to pay towards dues of IGST how the Central Government shall ensure due credit to IGST?

Ans. There shall be reduction in CGST on such utilisation; the Central Government shall transfer equivalent amount to the credit of IGST account.

53.4 MCQs

Q1. Section 53 of CGST/SGST Act, 2017 provides for transfer of amount (equivalent to CGST credit utilised) by Central Government to pay:

- (a) CGST A/c
- (b) SGST A/c

(c) UTGST A/c

(d) IGST A/c

Ans. (d) IGST A/c

Statutory Provisions

²⁴53A. Transfer of certain amounts

Where any amount has been transferred from the electronic cash ledger under this Act to the electronic cash ledger under the State Goods and Services Tax Act or the Union territory Goods and Services Tax Act, the Government shall, transfer to the State tax account or the Union territory tax account, an amount equal to the amount transferred from the electronic cash ledger, in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.

²⁴ Inserted vide The Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 w.e.f. 01.01.2020