



Direct Taxes Ready Reckoner (36th Edition)

Book Review

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DIRECT TAXES READY RECKONER (36th Edition)

Introduction

Direct Taxes Ready Reckoner is a hand book for tax practitioners, taxpayers and as well as commerce students. It is written by Dr. Vinod Kumar Singhanian, Ph.D, published by Taxmann Publishing (P) Limited. It was first published in May, 1978. Last available edition is its 36th edition of May 2013. This edition contains the law stated in as amended by the Finance Bill, 2013 with a price tag of ₹ 695.

Discussion about the Contents

This book is divided in **four** parts - Part A to Part D.

PART A

This part starts with amendments at a glance with effect of Finance Bill 2003 give ready notes on amendments in Direct Tax area. Tax rates for last 10 years are very much useful. Gold & Silver rates for current as well as for last ten years and for April 1, 1981 provide help to tax practitioner in calculating capital gain taxes. Depreciation rates under Income Tax and Companies Act, Deductions and Allowances, Provisions of Section 44D, 44DA, and 115A in brief. Computation of Income and tax under section 115A, 115AB, 115AC, 115AD, 115BBA and 115D are up to the mark. Period of limitation and Date with Direct taxes helps taxpayers in comply their obligations. This part has **two** divisions.

DIVISION 1- INCOME TAX

It starts with the definitions of different terms in connection of Income Tax Act e.g. Assessment Year, Previous Year etc.

Chargeability of income under different heads of Income Tax, viz. Income from Salaries, Income from House properties, Profit and gains of business or profession, Capital Gains, Income from Other Sources are discussed very well along with examples.

Notes on return of income under different sections e.g. 139(1), 139(4A), 139(4B), 139(4C), 139(5) help taxpayers. It provides knowledge of assessment procedure under different sections. It also gives knowledge of rectification procedures clearly providing the information regarding which type of mistakes can be rectified and by which authority.

Penalty section with a chart is useful to users. Interest calculation under section 234A, 234B, 234C and 234D with problem and solutions make things easier to understand.

Advance payment of tax section of the book dealt with who is liable to pay the advance taxes. How much must be paid as advance tax and consequences of non payment of advance taxes are explained with examples.

Businessmen have to deduct and collect taxes at source from different heads of payment they made under different sections. They found it difficult to understand their obligation under this chapter. It seems them a troublesome job. Dr. Singhania tries very much to minimize their burden. He dealt with different areas of tax deductions e.g. deduction of tax from salaries (Sec 192), deduction of tax at source from interest on securities (Sec 193) etc. It also prescribes the rules when the said taxes have to deducted and what it is last date of deposition of the collected taxes. Tabular form of provisions of time of deposits, annual returns under different sections helps users to understand the things.

Assessment of different taxpayers involves the practical application of various provisions of the Act in a given situation. This section gives light on how different tax payer can compute their tax liability in a given situation. It discusses the procedure to calculate the tax liability by Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families, Firms, Companies, etc.

Tax incidences on Trust chapter, provides the elaborate definition of Charitable purpose [Sec 2(15)]. Forms or modes of investment, application of income, Accumulation of Income are well discussed.

A brief note have also be made on Tax Clearance Certificate, Tonnage Tax (Sections 115V to 115VZC), Security Transaction Tax, Fringe Benefit Tax (Sections 115W to 115WL), Banking cash transaction tax.

DIVISION 2: WEALTH TAX

This portion of the book deals with the definitions of different terms under Wealth Tax Act. It explains pre-computation steps and post computation steps for wealth tax. Practical examples make the things easier to understand.

PART B

DIVISION 1: INCOME TAX

It provides the table of Income Tax rates for different slabs for Individual, Firms and Domestic Co, Foreign Companies, Co-operative Society, Salaried Employees (Other than senior citizens) for the Assessment Year 2013-14 and 2014-2015.

DIVISION 2: WEALTH TAX

It provides the table of Wealth tax rates for different slabs for individual, HUFs and Companies including Foreign Companies, for the Assessment Year 2013-14.

PART: C

MARKET QUOTATIONS

It provides the market quotation of Equity Shares as on 01.04.1981 and Gold & Silver prices for 01.04.1981 and 31.03.2013.

PART: D

It Contains Tax tables for past ten years (i.e. Assessment Year 2003-04 to 2012-2013) for Individuals, specified HUFs, AOPs and Companies.

Critical Appreciation

The book provides comments on clubbing of income and set off of losses. Exemptions and deductions require more discussions. Write-up on deduction from Tax liability is very short. Agriculture Income chapter needs more examples and explanations.

In terms of special procedure for assessment of search cases, only a brief note has been made under this chapter. This chapter requires much more discussions and clarifications. Some practical problems and solutions can help users very much to understand the chapter.

In various parts of the book relevant case laws and circulars are quoted but a brief description of such circulars, case laws will help very much to users.

Otherwise the book is well written. It is user friendly, cost effective, comprehensive and well accepted by the users.

