

Corpsec Hotline

February 22, 2007

NRIS MAY BE PERMITTED TO INVEST IN INDIA THROUGH SUB-ACCOUNT ROUTE

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reported to have, in its recently concluded board meeting, discussed a proposal to allow overseas investors like non-resident Indians (NRIs), foreign firms and individuals to invest in Indian capital markets by registering themselves as sub-accounts with Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). Under the extant FII Regulations foreign corporates and foreign individuals are allowed to invest through the FII/sub-account route hence it will have to be seen what further refinements will be made in the existing regulatory framework as regards these investors. However, the objective of the proposal seems to expand the categories of eligible investors by allowing NRIs to register themselves as sub-account and thereby allowing them to invest under the FII regime.

Under the FII regulations NRIs currently are not allowed to register themselves as FIIs or sub-accounts and the only route available for NRIs to invest in the Indian capital markets is through Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) laid down under the Indian exchange control regulations. Under PIS an NRI can invest only up to 5% of the total share capital of the Indian company and the aggregate investment by NRIs is capped at 10% of the total share capital which can be increased to 24% subject to a special resolution of the shareholders of the company in that regard.

Thus aggregate investment by NRIs is capped at 24% of share capital of the company. However, in case of limit on aggregate investment by FIIs/sub-accounts, shareholders of the company may by way of a special resolution increase FII/sub-account investment limit from the prescribed 24% to the maximum permissible foreign investment threshold laid down for companies engaged in various sectors. SEBI and RBI will have to iron out these inconsistencies before they decide to implement the proposal.

Implications

- NRIs will be able to pool their monies in a tax treaty jurisdiction and thereby benefit from low or nil tax liability in India. Hitherto investments by NRIs were generally made directly from their home country jurisdiction that may not necessarily be tax efficient.
- Flexibility to appoint professional investment managers to manage pooled vehicles and thus not just benefit from their expertise but also delegate the burden of managing the portfolio and keeping track of it.
- NRIs will now be able to spread their investment risk by investing in to a pooled vehicle as opposed to direct investments through PIS route which has relatively greater investment risk.

To make the above a reality SEBI and RBI will have to suitably amend the FII Regulations and exchange control regulations respectively. It remains to be seen in what manner and when the existing regulatory framework will be amended.

Source: *The Economic Times dated February 21, 2007.*

- Shiju P.V. & Suneet Barve

You can direct your queries or comments to the authors

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this hotline should not be construed as legal opinion. View detailed disclaimer.

This Hotline provides general information existing at the time of preparation. The Hotline is intended as a news update and Nishith Desai Associates neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for any loss arising to any person acting or refraining from acting as a result of any material contained in this Hotline. It is recommended that professional advice be taken based on the specific facts and circumstances. This Hotline does not substitute the need to refer to the original pronouncements.

This is not a Spam mail. You have received this mail because you have either requested for it or someone must have suggested your name. Since India has no anti-spamming law, we refer to the US directive, which states that a mail cannot be considered Spam if it contains the sender's contact information, which this mail does. In case this mail doesn't concern you, please unsubscribe from mailing list.

Research Papers

Littler International Guide (India) 2024

November 08, 2024

Unmasking Deepfakes

October 25, 2024

Are we ready for Designer Babies

October 24, 2024

Research Articles

The Bitcoin Effect

November 14, 2024

Acquirers Beware: Indian Merger Control Regime Revamped!

September 15, 2024

Navigating the Boom: Rise of M&A in Healthcare

August 23, 2024

Audio

Digital Lending - Part 1 - What's New with NBFC P2Ps

November 19, 2024

Renewable Roadmap: Budget 2024 and Beyond - Part I

August 26, 2024

Renewable Roadmap: Budget 2024 and Beyond - Part II

August 26, 2024

NDA Connect

Connect with us at events, conferences and seminars.

NDA Hotline

Click here to view Hotline archives.

Video

"Investment return is not enough" Nishith Desai with Nikunj Dalmia (ET Now) at FI8 event in Riyadh

October 31, 2024

Analysing SEBI's Consultation Paper on Simplification of registration for FPIs

September 26, 2024

