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Quarterly return monthly payment (QRMP) scheme under goods and service tax: Analysis and discussion

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Abstract--GST was implemented by Government of India as one indirect tax for whole nation as single tax on the supply of goods and services and was considered as biggest indirect tax reform of Independent India. The main purpose of implementation of GST in India was to replace multiple taxes with uniform tax on supplies and to remove the cascading effect. In order to remove the loopholes and to make the system more efficient and user friendly, the Government of India is continuously hustling to improve Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) and updates are being made to the

system, provisions and various returns on the portal accordingly from time to time. This new scheme named Quarterly Return Monthly Payment (QRMP) is also the part of said exercise of simplification of process by GOI, introduced w.e.f. 1st January, 2021, in order to lessen the tax compliance burden and to ease the process of filing returns to MSME taxpayers under GST. QRMP Scheme can be availed by eligible registered persons to file their GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B quarterly and pay taxes on monthly basis. The introduction of this scheme is an addition to promote and excel the ease of doing business to small entrepreneurs including Start-ups and other alike schemes of Government of India to create more business friendly atmosphere to small and new entrepreneurs and also to create more employment opportunity to society, so that their efforts can be utilized in other significant area of their business/entity, which will in turn help the economy to grow and will create better business opportunities within the country and across the globe. This paper is basically focused on the concept of new QRMP scheme under GST and suggestions for improving the same.

Keywords--GST, GSTN, QRMP Scheme, Portal, Quarterly, Monthly, IFF, Returns, Fixed Sum Method and Self Assessment Method.

Introduction

GST was introduced in India with a benchmark of having transparent and corruption free environment to work and excel in the industry so as to generate fair revenue to the government and proper return to the producers / manufacturers / service providers covered therein with minimum regulatory hurdle. With proper implementation of various forms and returns on GSTN (Goods and Service Tax Network) through GST Portal, the government of India aimed at attaining all of its objectives behind the implementation of this new Indirect Taxation system and for the same the portal is updated day-by-day and drastic improvements are made in the forms and returns available on the portal since its inception. To provide simple, seamless and hurdle-free services, better and efficient working and understanding of GST return filing by business houses w.e.f 1st January 2021, the Government of India has introduced this Quarterly Return Monthly Payment (QRMP) Scheme of GST return, with a view to provide relaxation to certain manufactures / producers / service providers having specified threshold limit, GOI has reduced the GST return filing frequency from monthly to quarterly and tax payment on monthly basis.

Research Methodology:

The study is based on descriptive methodology where the background, concepts and provisions relating to topic is discussed thoroughly.

Review of Literature:

As the topic is new and recently introduced by Government of India w.e.f 01st

January, 2021 that is why any literature in the form of research paper on Quarterly Return Monthly Payment (QRMP) is not found yet to be reviewed, so the author have read the related literature as released by government, various news agencies and you tube videos of experts of the field on the topic. As one of the author is a CA aspirant and has practical knowledge of working on the portal, so this paper is a blend of her personal experience and perspective shared by experts of the field.

Background and Discussion:

Initially, there were few forms and returns when GST was introduced in India like GSTR-1, GSTR-2, GSTR-2B, GSTR3, GSTR-3B and so on and these were generally applicable for all without any opt in or opt out scheme from filing the return on monthly or quarterly basis. But upon actual working under GST many difficulties and complexities have been reported by the users through online complaint redressal system, email and also through news reporting which requires the need of more simplified procedures and that is how the government first gave the facility of filing GSTR-1 quarterly and now with the introduction of QRMP Scheme, GSTR-3B can also be filed quarterly wherever applicable. Under normal / old scheme the registered person under GST was required:

1. To file GSTR-1,
 - a) Quarterly, if the turnover is up to 1.5 crore by the last date of the month immediately following the quarter for which return has to be filed.
 - b) Monthly, if the turnover is above 1.5 crore by the 11th day of the following month.
2. To file GSTR-3B on monthly basis irrespective of turnover by the 20th day of the following month for which the return has to be filed.

What is QRMP Scheme:

Government of India introduced a new scheme for filing returns under GST with a view to automate the working. Quarterly Return Monthly Payment of taxes is a scheme is to simplify the compliance of various procedures and responsibilities of the small taxpayers having an aggregate turnover at PAN level up to Rs. 5 crore can file the GSTR-3B as well on quarterly basis. This scheme originates from Section 37, 38 and 39 of Return related provisions with their corresponding rules, as follows:

Section 37 read with Rule 59: Furnishing details of outward supplies
Section 38 read with Rule 59 and 60: Furnishing details of inward supplies
Section 39 read with Rule 61 to 67: Furnishing of returns

Overview of QRMP Scheme:

Applicable from 1st January 2021, the QRMP Scheme:

1. Is available for selected suppliers who are eligible to avail this scheme.
2. These suppliers can pay taxes on monthly basis through a simple challan by the 25th day of next month, where IFF filing is optional.
3. File GSTR-3B and GSTR-1 Quarterly, whereby GSTR-1 is to be filed by 13th of month succeeding the quarter and GSTR-3B by 22nd and 24th of the month succeeding the quarter.

Part 1- Who is eligible for the QRMP scheme?

Eligibility:

Following persons are eligible to opt in for QRMP Scheme:

1. **For Existing taxpayers:** A registered person who has an aggregate turnover of Rs. 5crores in the preceding financial year and is required to file GSTR-3B.
2. **For Others:** A person obtaining a new registration or a registered person opting out of Composition Scheme.

Circular No. 143/13/2020-GST, dated the 10th of November 2020, says and further clarifies that the option to avail the QRMP Scheme is GSTRN wise. As a result, distinct persons as defined in Section 25 of the CGST Act (different GSTINs on different PANs) have the option to avail the QRMP Scheme for one or more GSTINs. In other words, some GSTINs associated with that PAN may participate in the QRMP System, whereas the remainder GSTINs may or may not participate in the scheme.

Aggregate Turnover:

Aggregate turnover means all India turnover of all the GSTN taken together including sale of capital goods, branch transfers or any other amount that is to be included in the value of supply irrespective of whether you pay tax on such supply or not, for example: supplies of petrol / diesel.

Conditions:

To opt in and avail the scheme, apart from being eligible the person so concerned shall be fulfilling following conditions as well:

1. As on the date of exercising this option the return of the preceding month has to be already furnished.

2. Option once exercised will continue to remain until it is changed by opting out or the taxpayer becomes ineligible to avail the scheme.

Clarification of eligibility through illustrations:

According to paragraph two of Notification 84/2020 Central Tax Non-Rate dated the 10th of November 2020, a registered person whose aggregate turnover is greater than Rs. 5 crores during a quarter in a fiscal year is ineligible to furnish a return on a quarterly basis beginning with the first month of the quarter that immediately follows the one in which the threshold was exceeded.

Illustration 1:

Period	Aggregate turnover
Financial Year 2019-20	Rs. 3 Crore
April, 2020 to November, 2020	Rs. 5.5 Crore

In illustration 1, the suppliers is not eligible for QRMP scheme from 1st January, 2021 or say the quarter ending March, 2021 as the turnover of preceding quarter crossed the limit of Rs. 5 crore.

Illustration 2:

Period	Aggregate turnover
Financial Year 2019-20	Rs. 6 Crore
April, 2020 to November, 2020	Rs. 1 Crore

In illustration 2, as the turnover in the preceding financial year exceeds the limit of Rs. 5 crore the taxpayer is not eligible for QRMP scheme and he has to file returns under normal scheme.

Illustration 3:

Period	Aggregate turnover
Financial Year 2019-20	Rs. 3 Crore
April, 2020 to November, 2020	Rs. 1 Crore
December, 2020 to March 2021	Rs. 2 Crore
April, 2021	Rs. 7 Crore

In illustration 3, as the turnover is within the limit of Rs. 5 crore till March 2021, so upto 1st Quarter 2021-22 the taxpayer can avail QRMP scheme but thereafter the same shall not be available as the turnover should be upto Rs. 5 crore for availing the facility of of QRMP Scheme in the succeeding quarter but the turnover crosses the said limit.

Illustration 4:

Period	Aggregate turnover
Financial Year 2019-20	Rs. 7 Crore
Financial Year 2020-21	Rs. 2 crore
Financial Year 2021-22	?

In illustration 4, as we know that the aggregate turnover of last financial year is considered to determine the eligibility of taxpayer to avail QRMP Scheme and in this case for FY 2020-21 the taxpayer is ineligible to avail the scheme or we say he has to file returns under normal scheme compulsorily and for FY 2021-22, the taxpayer is eligible to opt in and file return under QRMP scheme based on his turnover.

Procedure for opting the QRMP Scheme:

As the scheme was on air from 1st January, 2021, the availability and eligibility regarding the QRMP Scheme is to be determined from the same date and thereafter but not retrospectively. The government has made arrangements and eases the process by shifting certain taxpayers to the QRMP Scheme automatically.

Case 1: Those registered persons having the turnover of less than Rs. 1.5 Crore and were filing the GSTR 1 as well as GSTR-3B quarterly.

The government made default system on the portal to shift those taxpayers to QRMP Scheme automatically.

Case 2: Those registered persons who were filing monthly GSTR-3B, having turnover between Rs. 1.5 Crore to Rs. 5 Crore and were filing the GSTR 1 monthly because if the turnover is above Rs. 1.5 Crore the GSTR 1 would have been filed monthly.

The government made default system on the portal to shift those taxpayers to QRMP Scheme automatically. Here, main point of consideration for doing so is that the turnover is within Rs. 5 Crore.

Case 3: Those registered parties who had been filing the GSTR 1 monthly and the GSTR-3B on a quarterly basis and whose annual revenue was less than Rs. 1.5 Crore.

The registered person who falls into this category will not be moved to the QRMP Scheme; instead, they will remain in the conventional scheme. However, taxpayers have the option to transfer to the QRMP Scheme as soon as they are following the established standards as well as if they so desire.

1. Time Limit for opting in QRMP Scheme: As this new scheme is applicable

from 1st January 2021, the applicability and availability to opt in for scheme is to be determined from the same date and thereafter w.r.t the concerned quarter or period as the case may be. For this purpose, the government has made provisions regarding the time limit within which the registered person / taxpayer is required to opt in or out of the QRMP Scheme, which are as follows:

For the Fourth Quarter of 2020-21: There was system generated classification, which if required could be amended during the period 5th of December 2020 to 31st January 2021. For instance, if any taxpayer falling under any of the three categories wants to switch over to normal scheme or QRMP scheme, that had to be done between the aforesaid period.

For the First Quarter of 2021-22 and thereafter: The Rule 61A of CGST Rules, 2017 says that the option must be availed from the first day of the second month of the preceding quarter till the last day of the first month of the quarter for which the option has to be exercised.

For the quarter 2 or quarter ending September 2021, a taxpayer filing return under normal scheme must opt in for the QRMP Scheme between 1st May 2021 to 31st July 2021.

For the quarter 3 or quarter ending December 2021, a taxpayer filing return under normal scheme must opt in for the scheme between 1st August 2021 to 31st October 2021.

In those instances, where the registered person could not opt for QRMP Scheme within July or October or say within stipulated time, whichever the case may be, then the taxpayer is abided to file the GST returns under normal scheme until the next quarter when the taxpayer again gets the chance to opt in for QRMP Scheme within such stipulated period.

Reasons to opt in for QRMP Scheme:

There could be various reasons which allows some benefits and thereby motivates the registered person for opting into file returns under QRMP Scheme which are as follows:

1. Voluntary adaptation of new scheme with the view of ease of filing returns under GST as QRMP scheme reduces the frequency of filing return filing by the dealer.
2. When the taxpayer filing GST returns under normal scheme could not file the GSTR-1 within due date for the period concerned, the taxpayer, in order to avoid the charge of penalty opts in for the new scheme to file return which gives him further time to file return without incurring any liability.
3. Where the turnover includes B to B sale and B to C sales as well, then by filling the B to B turnover in IFF, the taxpayer pays the tax for the month and pay the entire tax liability after end of the quarter based on

quarterly 3B, thereby he can postpone his tax liability on B to C turnover for two months by opting QRMP Scheme.

Part 2- Monthly Payment

The registered persons are required to pay tax due in each of the first two months of the quarter by the 25th day of next month using form PMT-06 under QRMP Scheme. For instance, if we talk about the last quarter i.e. March 2021 of the financial year 2020-21 or say the first quarter from which the scheme is available to the taxpayers, in this case the taxes relating to January and February, 2021 are required to be deposited within 25th of February, 2021 and 25th of March, 2021, respectively.

There are two methods of paying monthly taxes for the first two months of quarter under QRMP Scheme:

- I. Fixed Sum Method
- II. Self Assessment Method

I. Fixed Sum Method:

Under this method, the taxpayer is required to pay taxes through pre-filled challan which is generated by the system on the basis of taxes paid in last tax payment of previous quarter and balance amount of tax in the last month of the quarter in Form GST PMT-06, for an amount equal to 35% of taxes paid in cash only.

Tax Type (Paid in Cash)	1 st Qtr 21-22	July, 2021	August, 2021	September, 2021
IGST	Rs. 18000.00	Rs. 6300.00	Rs. 6300.00	Balance
CGST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 3500.00	Rs. 3500.00	Balance
SGST	Rs. 10000.00	Rs. 3500.00	Rs. 3500.00	Balance
CESS	Rs. 1000.00	Rs. 350.00	Rs. 350.00	Balance

Note: The calculation above is shown where the GSTR-3B was filed quarterly that is why we took cumulative of three months or we say tax relating to whole quarter 1. Likewise, where the GSTR-3B was filed on monthly basis, we will take taxes relating to last month of the quarter and calculations will be made accordingly.

Exclusively for the quarter ending March 2021:

- (i) Only those registered persons who were registered under GST for and during the whole previous quarter can pay taxes using Fixed Sum Method. The rationale behind this provision is to prevent taxpayers from tax evasion. For instance, if a registered person has registered under GST on 24th March 2021, then it is

obvious that he has not paid any taxes till date and which in next quarter while generating monthly taxes challan through Fixed Sum Method, the amount automatically comes to 35% of taxes paid in previous month will be equal to zero. So, this provision will prevent from these kinds of deficiencies to occur.

(ii) Likewise, as there is no previous period for the quarter ending March 2021 as this QRMP Scheme came into effect from 1st January 2021 so the government made the exclusive provision for payment of taxes in this quarter that the payment of taxes in January and February 2021 will be 100% of the amount paid in December 2021 and balance if any shall be paid in March 2021 and thereafter the rule prescribed under fixed sum method shall apply.

II. Self-Assessment Method:

Under this method, the taxpayers have to pay actual tax on the basis of calculation done manually by taking into consideration the outward supplies made and offsetting the Input Tax Credit (ITC) available through Form PMT-06. To arrive at the amount available to be taken as ITC, the taxpayer shall refer to auto-drafted Input tax Credit statement GSTR-2B for every month, in which he shall find all the purchases made and detail of eligible ITC.

Other Important points to be considered under both the methods of tax payment:

1. The registered person or taxpayer is free to avail any of the two methods specified above for any of the first two months of the quarter.
2. **No such amount of tax may be required to be deposited:**
 - (a) In the case of the first month of the quarter, if the balance in the electronic cash ledger or credit ledger is sufficient to offset the tax due for the month in question or if there is no tax liability at all.
 - (b) When the amount in the electronic cash ledger or credit ledger for the second month of the quarter is sufficient to set off the liability of cumulative tax for the first and second month of the quarter, or when there is no tax due;
3. Para 8 of Circular 143/13/2020-GST says that if while furnishing the return in Form GSTR-3B, it is found that in any or both of the first two months of the quarter where the challan has been generated by auto-generated fixed sum method, the tax

liability net of available credit on the supplies made / received was higher than the amount paid in challan, then, **no interest would be charged**. The reason for non-chargeability of any interest is that the amount of tax to be paid was auto populated by system and that does not make the taxpayer liable anyhow.

4. Any amount of tax deposited by the taxpayer for the first two months of quarter shall not be available to be refunded or for any other purpose in the subsequent quarter unless the filing of return under GSTR-3B of that quarter, where that amount shall be debited to offset the liability.

Applicability of Interest under QRMP Scheme: The following reasons give rise to chargeability of interest:

1. Payment is not made within due date in Form GST PMT-06-

In the event that the payment is not made by the due date, which is the 25th of the following month under the QRMP Scheme, then interest will be owed beginning on the due date of supplying the Form GST PMT-06 and continuing until the day actual payment is made based on the actual liability.

2. Non-filing of Form GSTR-3B-

If the return in Form GSTR-3B is not submitted by the due date, then the interest that is applicable is determined according to the provisions of Section 50 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act for the tax liability that is remaining after ITC has been deducted.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 50(2) of the CGST Act, 2017, interest at the rate of 18 percent must be computed beginning on the day that immediately follows the day on which such tax was required to be paid.

In order to better understand this idea, let's look at an example: suppose a taxpayer was unable to deposit the tax relating to the first and second month of the quarter by the 25th of the following month for the respective months of the quarter and also failed to file GSTR-3B. In this scenario, the taxpayer would be in violation of the law.

1. Then, he will be responsible for paying interest at the rate of 18 percent of the total amount of the net tax liability that remains unpaid after the due date for any one of the months in the quarter. This interest will be calculated separately for the number of days that the payment was late in the first month, the second month, and GSTR-3B.
2. In addition to this late fee shall also be charged Rs. 50.00 per day (Rs. 20.00 per day in case of Nil Return), subject to maximum of Rs. 5000.00.

3. There shall be no late fees charged for non-payment within due date or late payment of monthly taxes relating to first and second month of the quarter.

Part 3- Returns

There are two returns which are required to be filed quarterly under QRMP scheme which are:

1. **GSTR-1:** The details relating to outward supplies including B2B sales, B2C sales, Credit/Debit Note and every other detail relating to it shall be submitted and filed under GSTR-1 within 13th of the month succeeding the quarter.
2. **GSTR-3B:** This is a summarized form of consolidated details of total inward and outward supplies which facilitates the taxpayer to avail and set off the outward liability of GST with ITC and pay the amount of taxes, cess, interest and/or penalty, if any. The due date for filing GSTR-3B is as follows:
 - By 22nd of the month succeeding the quarter- For southern part of India
 - By 24th of the month succeeding the quarter- For northern part of India

Why filing of GSTR-1 is pre-poned under QRMP Scheme?

The due date of GSTR-1 is preponed to 13th of the month succeeding the quarter with the inculcation of more automation and transparency in the system, the reason behind doing so is that when the GSTR-1 will be filed by the taxpayer that will automatically generate GSTR-2A/2B which will be helpful in facilitating the recipient for availing the ITC credit which will be already showing in their GSTR-2A/2B and from taxpayer's point of view, the pre-ponement of GSTR-1 is helpful in getting auto generated GSTR-3B for the concerned period and required adjustments can be made, if any.

Invoice Furnishing Form (IFF):

Apart from these two main returns (mentioned above) under QRMP Scheme, the Government introduced the facility of IFF (Invoice Furnishing Form), which is said to be a panacea to remove the lacuna which lies in this new scheme. The IFF contains following tabs to fill the details:

1. B2B Invoices- 4A, 4B, and 4C, as well as 6B and 6C
2. Credit/Debit Notes (Registered)- 9B
3. Amended Business-to-Business Invoices- 9A

4. Amended Credit/Debit Notes (Registered)- 9C

IFF is an optional facility provided to the registered persons to upload their Business- to-Business outward supplies to the taxpayers who file their GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B quarterly under QRMP Scheme. It is optional so the taxpayers who have opted for QRMP Scheme may or may not file the details under IFF. A taxpayer can file IFF in first and second month of quarter by the 13th day of the month succeeding to the concerned month and the details so filed in will automatically be shown in GSTR-1 of the concerned quarter and those who did not file details under IFF then all the invoice details can be filled and uploaded in GSTR-1 directly which in turn reduces the work load of filling all the B to B sales for the quarter at a time thereby divides/reduces the one time workload of dealer.

Characteristics of IFF:

1. It is optional in nature, not compulsory, available to registered taxpayers.
2. Only B2B outward supplies and details relating to it can be filed, not B2C.
3. It can be filed in first two months only that means maximum twice in a quarter.
4. The due date for filing IFF is 13th of the month succeeding the month for which the form is required to be filed.
5. The maximum number of outward supplies which can be reported under IFF is Rs. 50 Lakhs per month.
6. Invoices can be saved on real time basis that means as and when any sales transaction takes place the taxpayer can save the invoice on same day in IFF on GST portal.
7. Trader can plan to fill IFF can be used to upload selected invoices for the month and rest invoices in GSTR-1. For example, if the registered person knows that only two parties are required to file the GST return on monthly basis after availing the ITC on purchase, so the taxpayer can choose to upload only 50 invoices relating to those two parties out of 500 invoices for the month of outward supplies.
8. The invoices submitted in IFF will auto populated in GSTR-1 return, which in turn will be auto populated in GSTR-2A/2B for the recipients.

The overall procedure right from the eligibility, to opt in for the availing the benefits of scheme, to the method of payment and filing the invoices under IFF are

discussed herein.

Suggestions for improvement of QRMP Scheme:

1. GST Software, Returns and Format:

The government should try to develop the GST software in a single window return format like Income Tax Software in which the several fields relating to various heads of income and other columns are displaying on a single page format and aligned in a manner that all heads has option to fill the details under sub-heads by clicking the tab concerned to that head and all the fields should be interconnected in such a manner that information filled in one place gets auto-populated at every other field where such information needs to be shown. For example, in income tax software when we enter the details of Interest on Saving Bank Account under the head Income from Other Sources under "Interest" Column, the same amount gets auto populated in the head "Deduction" under section 80TTA also.

2. Provision for payment of interest on monthly advance payment of taxes under Fixed Sum Method to registered dealer:

As the taxpayer becomes liable to pay interest on late payment of tax liability under GST, in the same way, there should be some provision for the payment of interest on advance deposit of tax to the taxpayer at the end of the month on the excess amount paid by the taxpayer, which he was not liable to pay but paid due to calculation by Fixed Sum Method of QRMP in which the tax liability on the basis of cash payment made in last quarter irrespective of the fact relating to actual supplies made or not, if any. This will justify the Principle of Equality also.

3. ITC on B2B supplies should be allowed on the basis of original copy of tax invoice:

As per the provisions of GST, ITC will be available to be set off against outward tax liability under GST to purchaser, only if supplier has filed GSTR-1 followed by deposit

of the collected tax. In such cases, there should be some check and complaint facility to the purchaser to avail the input tax credit on B2B purchase so as to enable him to avail ITC even if the supplier fails to file such invoice in IFF/GSTR-1 and deposit the tax collected thereon. This should be based on the verdict of various High courts relating to allowance of TDS even if deductor fails to file the deducted tax and TDS return where he has deducted TDS and issued the tax deduction certificate to person concerned.

4. One method of monthly tax payment:

The government should notify only one method of tax payment i.e. Self-Assessment Method in QRMP scheme, which effectively takes care of to allow and set off of ITC in calculating tax liability for the month.

5. GSTN Mechanism:

The mechanism of GSTN should be classical rather being critical.

Conclusion:

The Government of India has implemented Goods and Service Tax in India in the midnight of 1st July, 2017 as “One Nation One Tax” with the aim of having more transparent and accountable working environment in India and across the globe. With the continuous and untiring effort of the GOI for providing effective and efficient services under GST, the GST network, software, officials attitude towards disposal of grievances has restricted the GOI to achieve the target of being within 50 in EOD rating, even then GOI has achieved the ranking of India in EOD to 63rd place in 2020 from 79th place in 2019. The GOI is trying to provide most simple and user friendly platform under GST and this new QRMP Scheme is also part of this exercise, introduced with zeal of having the specific eligible MSME entities in confidence and to motivate them into getting registered and filing the GST returns with the ease of understanding and working under GSTN. The main objective of GOI in implementing the GST was to replace the multiple indirect taxes with uniform tax on supply chain of goods and remove the cascading effect of taxes which appears to be invisible and to accomplish this, GST should have the unbiased and overall coverage of each product and services at the earliest by settling the indirect tax revenue division ratio between state and center.

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Abbreviations used in this paper:

GST- Goods and Service Tax
GSTN- Goods and Service
Tax Network GSTR-
GST Returns
QRMP- Quarterly Return
Monthly Payment IFF-
Invoice Furnishing Form
ITC- Input
Tax
Credit
B2B-
Business
to
Business
B2C- Business
to
Consumer
GOI-
Governme
nt of India
EOD-Ease
of doing
business

Declaration-

Availability of Data and Material: We have written this article from reading various articles and watching videos relating to the topic. The facts and other materials have been collected from articles and GST portal.

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