



Unethical practices — a bane of the profession

This is with reference to the letter by our Past President Shri P.N. Shah on the need to check unethical practices published in the May 2005 issue of the *Journal*. May I add here that not only do unethical practices need to be checked, but need to be curbed with a stringent implementation of the Code of Conduct. The membership of the members found indulging in unethical practices may even be revoked permanently, and such actions should be publicised through the Institute's publications. The continuity of the trust that the society has in our profession depends on us members, individually as well as collectively.

"Professionalism requires intellectual independence... We need to overcome the attitude and think independently, if we are to be true professionals," said Narayan Murthy, Chairman and CEO of Infosys Technologies Ltd. He also very rightly said, "Remember that different circumstances may require different approaches, but not different standards of ethics".

— Suniil R Karbhari
(Member)

Rules for networking

This is with reference to the 'Rules for Networking of CA Firms Registered with ICAI' that were published in the *Journal* in February 2005 issue. Networking will help in capacity building measures of CA firms. Rules for issuing reports contain that only the firm(s), member(s) forming a network are eligible to issue/sign/attest any certificate/report/professional document/assignment.

As I understood from the above rule is that the firm, which is taking the professional assignment is the only one who can sign the professional document. It means all network members are not eligible to sign the professional document. I think this is one of the obstacles in forming a network with members. I request the Institute to reconsider the matter and take an appropriate decision.

— Susheel Jain
(Member, Durg)

The Journal is more useful now

I am writing this to congratulate the In-

stitute for the improvement in the *Journal*, thereby making it a far more useful magazine not only for members, but also other related professionals as well. I would also like to suggest that since an increasing number of us members are taking up careers in the field of management, the *Journal* should include more articles on management and contemporary subjects. The scope of book reviews may also be widened with the inclusion of books on management and sometimes even fiction.

— Sharad Jain
(Member, Indore)

Much more needs to be done about VAT

The June 2005 issue of the *Journal* on Value Added Tax was really timely and informative. In the context of VAT, I would like to share certain concerns with my fellow professionals. The VAT is welcome if all other taxes such as Sales Tax, including Central Sales Tax, Octroi Tax, Toll Tax and other local/states taxes are abolished, on all such transactions where once VAT is levied. But rates of 4, 12.5 and 20 per cent are too high. The same should be reduced to 2 per cent and 5 per cent only. VAT should be uniformly applicable throughout India. Also there should no tax on necessities of life such as "Dhaba food" (small restaurants) and all eatables and other items of low price say, less than Rs. 500.

Also, the Government says that 'Do not pay more than MRP'. But in many commodities MRP does not include "Local Taxes"/"Taxes Extra" as it is found printed on it. Therefore, it is important that the Maximum Retail Price must include Vat/Other Taxes, too, as consumers are not aware of VAT rates and other taxes as these are different for different commodities.

— Mahesh Kapasi
(Member, New Delhi)

Write to the Editor

'Information is Power' and our ever-evolving profession needs more and more of that today than ever before. Do you have any relevant points to make, experiences to share, and views to spread among the CA fraternity? If yes, e-mail us at eboard@icai.org/nadeem@icai.org or write to: The Journal Section, ICAI, PO Box 7100, New Delhi 110002.

—Editor