

Membership of Other Accounting Bodies Abroad

In this globalisation era, the accountants, like other professionals, are raring to spread their wings in the vast canopy of global market. Towards this end, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) had started an awareness series of details in professional aspects in markets of interest, starting with Canada which was published in December 2003 issue of this Journal. We now present details on accounting scenario in Mauritius.

- ❖ Mauritius enjoys political, economic and social stability; an open economy with no foreign exchange control; double Taxation Avoidance Treaties with a number of countries; pleasant and safe living environment. In addition, the rights of the private sector are guaranteed by the Constitution. Mauritius shares common affinities with India. It is a tolerant multi-cultural society as well. Mauritius has gradually emerged as a high middle-income country by skillfully carving out special niche in sectors like sugar, textile, tourism and financial services.
- ❖ The Companies Act 2001 of the Mauritius provides that the members of select professional bodies, of which the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is one of the indicated Institutes, individually or in partnership can be appointed as a statutory auditor of a company other than a small private company. Currently, there are about 1200 members of different accounting bodies already in Mauritius.
- ❖ Both individual auditors or audit firms can be appointed as statutory auditors and there is no legal requirement for auditors to have a practice certificate in Mauritius and the certification from their parent institution suffices in the matter. At present, there is no legal requirement to have indemnity insurance. However, practicing auditors are required by their individual professional bodies abroad to have professional indemnity insurance.
- ❖ Under the Mauritius Companies Act, 2001, all public and private companies, except small private companies, should present company's own and consolidated financial statements in accordance with IAS. The Act applies to domestic and global business companies (i.e., offshore companies).
- ❖ The Mauritius has mandated, with the enactment of Companies Act, 2001, the use of International Accounting Standards (IAS) and International Standards on Auditing (ISA) for all companies other than small private companies.