

**SBI: FRT: TDS:01 DATED 12/02/2025 : REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR CORPORATE INCOME TAX, TDS AND TCS RELATED MATTERS- REPLY TO PRE-BID QUERY**

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
1	51	Appendix B-Part (a)(8)	The Bidder should either be Class-I or Class-II local supplier as defined under this RFP.	Query: With respect to Class-I / Class-II local supplier and certification requirement for local content, please clarify that the same is not applicable as this is purely a contract for services only	Your understanding is correct as no goods will be supplied by the selected bidder.
2	65	Appendix E - 1(a)(1)	To provide assistance, advice/guidance/views, review and filing of various returns/forms required under Income Tax Act, mainly: - a. annual Income-tax Return/Tax Audit/Transfer Pricing/Form 10CCF (Section 80LA)/Form 67/ Other Tax reports/forms/ returns as applicable to the Bank/superannuation funds from time to time. b. Form 61, Form 61A – SFT Return, Guidance in handling of customer complaints on SFT. c. TDS/TCS returns, Form 15CA, Form 15CC and other related returns/forms (viz. 15G / 15H, 26QA, 26QAA) - both original and revised	Query: 1. We understand that our scope with respect to this point shall be restricted to only review and assistance in filing the income tax returns and other mentioned documents/forms. The preparation of the returns/forms shall be expected as a support service under Clause 1(d), i.e., Support services on Page no. 67.  2. We understand that we are not required to issue/sign the tax audit report (form 3CD) and transfer pricing report (Form 3CEB). Similarly we won't be required to provide any attestation related services. Please confirm.  3. Please clarify if the scope also involves assistance in preparing transfer pricing study report for the Bank.  4. We understand the scope does not include assistance with regard to BEPS related compliances and forms (i.e. Country-by-country report i.e. Form 3CEAD and master file i.e. Form 3CEAA). Please confirm.	1. Understanding is broadly correct. As a tax consultant, selected applicant is required to provide assistance, advice/guidance/views, review of various tax related Returns /Reports /Forms along with assistance in filing. Support services will be utilized for any Tax/TDS/TCS related work assigned to them from time to time. The indicative list is provided in RFP under Clause 1(d) support service.  2. Scope of the Selected applicant under RFP does not include issue/sign the Tax audit report as mentioned. However, the selected applicant has to review and provide advice/guidance/views on the Tax audit report and transfer pricing report. Generally certificate/attestation is not required. However, any certificate/attestation required as per statute may be provided by selected applicant from time to time.  3. Transfer pricing study report is not in the scope of this RFP.  4. BEPS related compliances is not in the scope of this RFP.  However, a General understanding and broad guidance may be provided on above matters as and when requested by the Bank.
3	65	Appendix E - 1(a)(2)	To work in close co-ordination with Information Technology (IT) department of the Bank to, inter-alia: a. Examine/Review the existing TDS/ TCS functionalities/platforms available at Bank at regular intervals and development of existing / future software platforms of the Bank, Validation of Business Requirement Document & Solution documents to align with the changes made in TDS /TCS provisions by Regulators/operations from time to time and review the exception reports generated by such systems. Submit the review report thereon and provide guidance / assistance to IT team for making necessary developments / changes in these platforms. b. Examine/Review the existing functionalities/platforms available at Bank, development of other future software platforms of the Bank in tune with Litigation tool management, computation of Provision for Taxes, determining the Contingent liabilities under the Corporate Income Tax.	Query: 1. May we request you to kindly let us know the details of the technology stack / current platform used by the client.  2. We understand that our scope shall only include review of the existing functionalities and review the BRD (from income-tax perspective) for changes/ new functionalities prepared by the Bank's team and provide comments. We understand that our role would exclude coordination between the tax and the Bank's project teams (including BRD and development teams).  3. Further, we understand that the user acceptance testing of the newly developed functionalities would be conducted by the Bank's tax team. In this regard, our role would be limited to providing tax related inputs/ test parameters and review any exceptions highlighted by the Bank's team.  4. We believe that development of any new software or user testing is not included in this scope, please confirm.	1. The details will be shared with the selected bidder.  2. You will be reviewing the existing functionalities and review the BRD for changes/new functionalities, assist in testing of new functionalities. You will be excluded for coordination between the tax and the Bank's project team.  3. You will also be required to review the logics /provide advices on the tax compliances/ assist in testing from taxation perspective of both existing and new functionalities and submit findings to the management.  4. Development of new software will be done by our respective Department/Team, you will be required to review the logics /provide advices on the tax compliances/ assist in testing from taxation perspective.
4	65	Appendix E - 1(a)(3)	Review of tax compliance and advise/suggest measures for overall improvement of tax compliance.	Query: May we request you to please clarify / elaborate on the expectation from our end in case of review and suggesting measures for improvement of tax compliance.	You need to guide us both from TDS and Corporate tax perspective to help improve compliance and achieve better tax efficiency.
5	65	Appendix E - 1(a)(4)	Analysing the complaints and advise necessary changes to be carried in systems	Query: Request you to please confirm the nature of complaints and elaborate on the expectation from our end	Complaints may be related to TDS/TCS , SFT returns , Form 15CC , Form 15G/15H, Form 61 or any other regulatory tax compliance / tax return relating to/by customers/ pensioner/employee/ vendor and selected applicant is required to provide guidance on how to reduce the customer complaints and make compliance to Income tax provisions.
6	66	Appendix E - 1(b)(4)  Appendix E - 1(b)(6)	Providing opinion on accounting issues relating to current tax/ deferred tax/ contingent liabilities etc based on accounting guidelines applicable to the Bank as on that point of time.  Provide opinion in respect of accounting of TDS on Bank's Income and TCS on purchase made by the Bank.	Query: We understand that our scope in relation to current tax/deferred tax/contingent liabilities shall be restricted to providing opinion only from an income-tax perspective, such as review of tax rate, commenting on permanent and timing differences, review of status of litigation issues and commenting on probability of outcomes, etc. Basis this, we understand that the Bank's finance/ accounting and tax teams shall examine and conclude on accounting aspects. Please confirm this understanding.	Besides the same selected applicant shall also provide guidance relating to accounting of taxes/TDS, final view shall be taken by the Bank in the matter.
7			Review of various circulars to be issued to the Circles / Branches in respect of TDS, TCS and corporate Income Tax related matters.	Query: We understand that our scope is only w.r.t review of circulars, and the drafting of the same shall be the responsibility of the Bank.	Bank is required to issue various types of circulars for its branches/BUS for compliances of Income tax provisions from time to time. Selected applicant is required to review the same. Drafting will be done by the Bank.

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8	66	Appendix E - 1(b)(9)	Provide Training to Bank's staff on various Income Tax provisions applicable to the Bank.	<p>Query:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We understand that the number of trainings will be capped during the year according to the requirements of the Bank.</li> <li>2. Further, we understand that the trainings shall be conducted centrally in a virtual mode. Please confirm.</li> <li>3. Co-ordinating for scheduling and managing the trainings shall be the responsibility of the Bank's learning and development team. Please confirm.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whenever there is any changes in Income Tax Rules/Bills and after each budget in addition to periodical training (normally being quarterly/ half-yearly). Sometime we may need special training sessions for staff to understand any particular Income Tax Rules/guidelines.</li> <li>2. Trainings will be conducted centrally in a virtual mode, sometimes we may require physical training sessions as well.</li> <li>3. Yes, your understanding is correct.</li> </ol>
9	66-67	Appendix E - 1(c)(3)	Briefing legal counsel for obtaining opinions / appearing before Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) / High court (HC) / Supreme Court (SC) for all the Income tax/TDS/TCS cases. Assist the legal counsels appointed for Income Tax/TDS/TCS cases in drafting the appeal papers/Affidavit/Paper book/other documents before ITAT/HC/SC and vetting the documents required for pending and forthcoming appeals.	<p>Query:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We understand that our scope shall only be restricted to briefing the counsel on the facts of the matter and income-tax aspects. The analysis / arguments from a legal / regulatory perspective shall be undertaken by the Bank's legal / other teams / the legal counsel. Kindly note that we do not provide any legal services directly or indirectly since we are not permitted to provide the same. Our scope is limited to technical aspect from an income-tax stand point and our services will not include provision of any legal services or legal advice. Please confirm this understanding.</li> <li>2. We understand that the Bank will bear the cost incurred for obtaining the counsel opinion and any other cost incurred for obtaining assistance from the Counsel.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please be guided by the scope of work.</li> <li>2. The cost of Counsel shall be borne by the Bank. However, the decision to approach a counsel or other wise on any taxation matter shall be taken by the Bank. Counsel appointment is not included in the scope of work. However, guidance/support for selection/coordination with counsel is expected from the selected applicant. Please refer RFP in this regard.</li> </ol>
10				Can you please let us know the status of ongoing litigation, year-wise, and also the forum at which the same is pending	The details of litigation will be shared with selected applicant only.
11	67	Appendix E - 1(c)(8)	Provide opinion on the issues raised in various audits conducted by Regulatory Authorities viz. CAG, Anti-evasion, Income Tax, High Court and Supreme Court.	Query: We understand that our scope shall be restricted to providing opinion only from income-tax perspective. Please confirm	Yes, your understanding is broadly correct.
12	67	Appendix E - 1(c)(10)	Advise in cases where refund from Income Tax department becomes due and taking necessary steps to complete the refund process.	Query: Kindly confirm the number of cases where refund is due to understand our efforts involved for assistance in completing the refund process.	The details of litigation will be shared with selected applicant only.
13	67	Appendix E - 1(c)(11)	Provide legal reply/responses to be filed before the income-tax authorities i.e. Assessing Officer, other Income Tax Authorities including Authorities under National Faceless Assessment Centre (NFAC) and any Income Tax appellate authorities, if required	Query: By the term "legal reply/response", we understand that our scope shall be restricted to replies/responses from income-tax perspective only and shall not involve opinion from the perspective of any other laws.	The RFP is for tax consultancy. Legal reply/response is to be from the Income Tax perspective.
14	67	Appendix E - 1(d)	Support services - To make available two qualified chartered accountants (with minimum three years post qualification experience in income tax/TDS/TCS /accounting matters as on date of RFP) and three other officials (graduates, having experience in the field of income tax/TDS/TCS /accounting of minimum 2 years as on date of RFP) to TDS and Tax section on permanent basis. These officials have to follow the working hours / working days of the Bank and will have to make their own travelling arrangements. These officials will be posted for the entire contact period except in case of resignation/separation from your organisation or on request by the Bank to change. In other circumstances, these officials can be changed/transferred out with prior approval from the Bank.	<p>Query:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We understand that where the deployed officials are required to be replaced by any other eligible official during the contract period (due to any personal / official reasons), the same can be done under a written confirmation from the Bank representatives. Please confirm this understanding.</li> <li>2. Kindly let us know the composition of support staff to be employed within Tax and TDS function, if both are separate teams. Further, we understand that there shall be fungibility in the functioning of officials employed in both Tax and TDS teams. Please confirm.</li> <li>3. We understand that the Tax and TDS teams, if separate, shall function from the same location, i.e., SBI Bhavan, Nariman Point, Mumbai. Please let us know if otherwise.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, broadly correct. However, replacement should only be in exceptional circumstances and not regularly.</li> <li>2. there shall be fungibility in the functioning of officials posted in Bank and they shall be assigned the both Tax and TDS related works.</li> <li>3. Yes, broadly correct</li> </ol>

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
15	73	Appendix H	<p>A schedule indicating applicable penalty on account of delay in providing the opinion, failure to visit Bank etc.</p> <p>For ease of understanding, we have reproduced two instances indicated in Appendix-H as under:</p> <p>Reason 1st instance 2nd instance 3rd instance</p> <p>Delay in providing the opinions &gt; (T+2) Caution Note 5% of the monthly invoice 10% of the monthly invoice</p> <p>Failure to provide guidance on IT and accounting system changes as per Statutory / Bank's requirements &gt; (T+2) Caution Note 5% of the monthly invoice 10% of the monthly invoice</p> <p>Here, T has been defined as the date of communication to consultant</p>	<p>Query:</p> <p>1. We understand that T+2 refers to working days for the Bank. Please confirm.</p> <p>2. We understand that our scope will be to provide guidance on the IT and accounting system changes only from direct taxation perspective. In other words, we will not be required to provide guidance from an IT and / or accounting perspective. Please confirm.</p> <p>3. Generally speaking, the timeline of T+2 is very tight and the Bank may consider to extend it to T+3 or T+4.</p>	<p>1. &amp; 3. Please refer to RFP terms.</p> <p>2. Understanding is broadly correct.</p>
16	50	Appendix B - Bidder's Eligibility Criteria  Sr No. 5.	<p>At least 1 partner/employee of the firm should have argued/represented more than 10 cases before ITAT (during 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024) for Scheduled Commercial Bank (except RRB) /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024 or other listed company with Indian Stock Exchange having balance sheet size of Rs 25,000 crore as on 31.03.2024</p>	<p>We request this clause to be as under:</p> <p>At least 1 partner/employee of the firm/ <b><u>company operating under the same brand name</u></b> should have argued/represented more than 10 cases before ITAT (during 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024) for Scheduled Commercial Bank (except RRB) /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024 or other listed company with Indian Stock Exchange having balance sheet size of Rs 25,000 crore as on 31.03.2024.</p>	Please refer to RFP terms.
17	59	Appendix C - Technical Eligibility Criteria  Sr No.4.	<p>Experience of the full-time CA partner(s)/ employee (s) having argued more than 10 cases before ITAT (during 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024) for Scheduled commercial Bank except RRB /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024 or other listed company with Indian Stock Exchange having balance sheet size of Rs 25,000 crore as on 31.03.2024 .</p>	<p>Similar to the request in Sr No. 1 above, the revised evaluation parameter should read as under:</p> <p>Experience of the full-time CA partner(s)/ employee <b><u>of the firm/ company operating under the same brand name</u></b> should have argued/represented more than 10 cases before ITAT (during 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024) for Scheduled Commercial Bank (except RRB) /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024 or other listed company with Indian Stock Exchange having balance sheet size of Rs 25,000 crore as on 31.03.2024.</p> <p>Further, for the criteria column, the same should read as under:</p> <p>Number of full-time partner (s) / employee (s) of the firm/ <b><u>company operating under the same brand name</u></b> argued more than 10 cases before ITAT 5 marks for each partner / employee for arguing cases of Scheduled commercial Bank except RRB /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024, maximum of 15 marks</p> <p>Number of full-time partner (s) / employee (s) of the firm/ <b><u>company operating under the same brand name</u></b> argued more than 10 cases before ITAT 2 marks for each partner / employee for arguing cases of such listed company upto a maximum of 8 marks.</p>	Please refer to RFP terms.

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18	59	Appendix C - Technical Eligibility Criteria  Sr No.6.	Experience as Statutory Central Auditor (whole organization level) for the period 01.04.2018 to 31.03.2024.	<p>Under Sr.No.4 of Bidders Eligibility Criteria - Page 49, the following is provided:</p> <p><i>Between 01-04-2018 to 31-12-2024, the Applicant should have <u>acted as consultant</u> or Statutory Central Auditor (SCA) of at least one Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) (other than Regional Rural Bank (RRB)/ Financial Institutions(FI) having Balance sheet size of more than Rs. 75,000 crores as on 31-03-2024. <u>The scope of consultancy should include Bank's Corporate Income Tax, TDS &amp; TCS related matters/ advisory services with respect to Income Tax.</u> (At least one year of continuous engagement from 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024)</i></p> <p>Given the above, we request you to include similar clause under Sr.No.6 of Technical Eligibility Criteria as well as a result of which, the revised clause shall read as under:</p> <p>Experience <b><u>as Consultant or</u></b> Statutory Central Auditor (whole organization level) of at least one Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) (other than Regional Rural Bank (RRB)/ Financial Institutions(FI) having Balance sheet size of more than Rs. 75,000 crores as on 31-03-2024.</p> <p><b>The scope of consultancy should include Bank's Corporate Income Tax, TDS &amp; TCS related matters/ advisory services with respect to Income Tax.</b></p> <p>(At least one year of continuous engagement from 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024).</p> <p>Further, for the criteria column, the same should read as under:</p> <p>1 mark for acting <b><u>as consultant/</u></b> annual audit for each eligible organization, subject to maximum 3 marks for one eligible organization. If more than 2 eligible organization, maximum 5 marks.</p>	Please refer to RFP terms.
19	65	Appendix E - SCOPE OF WORK AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE <b><u>a. Basic responsibilities</u></b>	<p>1. To provide assistance, advice/ guidance/ views, review and filing of various returns/ forms required under Income Tax Act, mainly: -</p> <p>a. annual Income-tax Return/Tax Audit/ Transfer Pricing/ Form 10CCF (Section 80LA)/ Form 67/ Other Tax reports/ forms/ returns as applicable to the Bank / superannuation funds from time to time.</p> <p>b. Form 61, Form 61A – SFT Return, Guidance in handling of customer complaints on SFT.</p> <p>c. TDS/TCS returns, Form 15CA, Form 15CC and other related returns/forms (viz. 15G / 15H, 26QA, 26QAA) - both original and revised</p>	<p>Please confirm that the scope with respect to Tax Audit report in Form 3CA-3CD/ Transfer Pricing report in Form 3CEB/ other forms [such as Form 15CB] only includes assistance in preparation/ reviewing as well as finalisation and assistance in submission of the same (by co-ordinating with the independent third party CA firm appointed by SBI) as the same will be signed by statutory auditor.</p> <p>With respect to SFT - Please confirm that the scope would be limited to providing comments on applicability of SFT reporting and manner of reporting etc - The scope shall not include assistance in extraction of data.</p>	<p>Scope of the Selected applicant under RFP does not include issue/sign the Tax audit report as mentioned. However, the selected applicant has to review and provide advice/guidance/views on the Tax audit report and transfer pricing report.</p> <p>With respect to SFT - the scope would be limited to providing comments on applicability of SFT reporting and manner of reporting etc and provide logic/guidance for extraction of data required for reporting.</p>
20	65	Appendix E - SCOPE OF WORK AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE <b><u>a. Basic responsibilities</u></b>	<p>2. To work in close co-ordination with Information Technology (IT) department of the Bank to, inter-alia:</p> <p>a. Examine/Review the existing TDS/ TCS functionalities/ platforms available at Bank at regular intervals and development of existing / future software platforms of the Bank, Validation of Business Requirement Document &amp; Solution documents to align with the changes made in TDS /TCS provisions by Regulators/operations from time to time and review the exception reports generated by such systems. Submit the review report thereon and provide guidance / assistance to IT team for making necessary developments / changes in these platforms.</p> <p>b. Examine/Review the existing functionalities/platforms available at Bank, development of other future software platforms of the Bank in tune with Litigation tool management, computation of Provision for Taxes, determining the Contingent liabilities under the Corporate Income Tax.</p>	<p>Please elaborate on the said scope of work.</p> <p>Our scope will be restricted to liaising with the software vendor for implementation of changes in direct tax laws and not the development of software itself.</p>	The scope of work includes providing guidance/logics for development of systems to comply with Income Tax provisions.

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
21	65	Appendix E - SCOPE OF WORK AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE <b>a. Basic responsibilities</b>	4. Analysing the complaints and advise necessary changes to be carried in systems.	We are not clear as to what type of complaints are referred here.  Please elaborate on the said scope of work	Complaints may be related to customer related data filed with Income Tax department for TDS/TCS returns / SFT returns / Form 15CC / Form 15G/15H, Form 61 etc.and selected applicant is required to provide guidance on how to reduce the customer complaints and make compliance to Income tax provisions.
22	66-67	Appendix E - SCOPE OF WORK AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE <b>b. Appeals / Assessment Proceedings of the Bank including e-ABs (PAN INDIA)</b>	Briefing legal counsel for obtaining opinions / appearing before Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) / High court (HC) / Supreme Court (SC) for all the Income tax/TDS/TCS cases. Assist the legal counsels appointed for Income Tax/TDS/TCS cases in drafting the appeal papers/Affidavit/Paper book/other documents before ITAT/HC/SC and vetting the documents required for pending and forthcoming appeals.	Please confirm that the counsel shall be appointed by SBI and fees for the counsel shall be paid separately by SBI directly to the counsel (over and above the fee to be paid to the Direct tax consultant). We are not permitted to act as a facilitator for such payments.	Counsel appointment is not included in the scope of work. However, guidance/support for selection/coordination with counsel is expected from the selected applicant. Please refer RFP in this regard.
23	69	Appendix F - Commerical Price Bid	Out of pocket expenses (outside Mumbai Jurisdiction) for lodging, boarding, travel, local expenses.	In case of out of pocket expenses for Mumbai jurisdiction such as travel to income-tax office, CIT(A) office, Tribunal, High Court etc., the same shall also be reimbursed based on actuals ?	Out of pocket expenses on actual basis ( <b>outside Mumbai Jurisdiction only</b> ) for lodging, boarding, travel, local expenses subject to ceiling as specified by bank.
24	65	Appendix-E(1)	-	Kindly provide a comprehensive list of entities, including funds, to whom services will be provided	The scope of work includes consultancy for the Bank including banks already merged with SBI i.e.all e-ABs ( e-SBS, e-SBICI, e-SBIN, e-SBBJ, e-SBM, e-SBH, e-SBP, e-SBT, e-BMB) and Bank's all superannuation funds, i. e. SBI Employees Gratuity Fund, SBI Employees Provident Fund, SBI Employees Pension Fund, including other associate banks superannuation funds merged with SBI Superannuation funds.
25	65	Appendix-E(1)	-	Does the scope also encompass SBI branches established in jurisdictions outside of India	The selected applicant is required to provide the consultancy services under the Income Tax Act in India and related treaty provisions under DTAA entered with the respective country.
26	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)	-	Are we obligated to approve/sign any forms or returns (such as 15CA/CB, Form 10CCF) that are prepared on behalf of SBI	The selected applicant is not required to perform attestation function on Bank's behalf.
27	66	Appendix-E(1)(b)	-	Is it possible to quote an hourly fee for any piece of services to be rendered	The bidder have to quote as per the Performa on monthly basis only. Please refer RFP document.
28	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	How many entities, including funds, require the preparation of annual Income Tax Returns, Tax Audits, Transfer Pricing reports, and other reports	The scope of work includes Income Tax return and other applicable forms for the Bank and Bank's all superannuation funds, viz. SBI Employees Gratuity Fund, SBI Employees Provident Fund, SBI Employees Pension Fund etc. under normal circumstances.
29	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	Please clarify as to what exact service would be needed from us from a Tax Audit perspective. This is because the RFP largely revolves around tax retainership (and not audit).	Scope of the Selected applicant under RFP does not include issue/sign the Tax audit report as mentioned. However, the selected applicant has to review and provide advice/guidance/views on the Tax audit report.
30	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	Please clarify the specific "other tax reports" referenced	"other tax reports" shall include any report/form other than those specifically mentioned in scope of work but applicable to Bank as prescribed under Income Tax Act, 1961/ Rules framed thereunder or any other bill/enactment made by Government of India in this regard.
31	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1b)	-	Are Form 61B returns also required to be prepared? We request an estimate regarding foreign reportable accounts.	Preparation of Form 61B is not included in the scope of work of this RFP.
32	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1c)	-	Based on past filings, could you confirm the frequency of return and form revisions	The Bank centralised TDS from 1.04.2017 and as on date, there are 81 active central TANs for filing returns. The volume/frequency of transactions/returns will be dependant of business / TDS rules. Data of earlier years shall be provided to the selected bidder on need basis.
33	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(2)	-	Will the team be expected to deliver IT/Software Development services, or will our role be limited to providing advisory services to the IT team at SBI	The scope of work does not include coding/ software development services. It, inter alia, includes providing guidance/logics for development of systems to comply with Income Tax provisions.

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34	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(2b)	-	Please explain in greater detail, specifying the services expected from us	The selected applicant shall Examine/Review the existing functionalities/platforms available at Bank, development of other future software platforms of the Bank. This is mainly required to manage the tax litigations of the Bank with various appellate authorities effectively and to comply with various income tax provisions. Further, the selected applicant shall guide/advise the Bank to get various MIS reports/output from the existing systems or proposed enhancements to be carried in the systems for proper monitoring and ease of work for the Bank.
35	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(3)	-	Please specify the period covered for the review services (Health Checkup)	The selected applicant shall Review the Tax compliance from time to time on minimum yearly basis. However, Bank or selected applicant may decide to conduct such review at the shorter period, if required.
36	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(4)	-	Kindly outline the coverage of complaints and specify the services expected from us	Complaints may be related to customer related data filed with Income Tax department for TDS/TCS returns / SFT returns / Form 15CC / Form 15G/15H, Form 61 and selected applicant is required to provide guidance on how to reduce the customer complaints and make compliance to Income tax provisions.
37	66	Appendix-E(1)(b)(3)	-	We understand that SBI would specifically raise queries with respect to their products/services qua changes in the tax law. Please confirm	The selected applicant shall provide advices/guidance on the impact of various amendments/rules/laws and their likely impact on the Bank's operations/products/services. However, the selected applicant shall provide the advices/opinion on the specific queries raised by the Bank from time to time.
38	66	Appendix-E(1)(b)(9)	-	Please provide information regarding the frequency and type of training mentioned	Whenever there is any changes in Income Tax Rules/Bills and after each budget in addition to periodical training (normally being quarterly/ half-yearly). Sometime we may need special training sessions for staff to understand any particular Income Tax Rules/guidelines.
39	66	Appendix-E(1)(c)	-	Please specify full form and meaning of the term "e-ABs". Also please provide a list of the same to us	e-AB means erstwhile Associate Banks which have been merged with SBI and eBMB. The scope of work includes consultancy for the Bank i.e SBI and including banks already merged with SBI i.e. e-SBS, e-SBICI, e-SBIN, e-SBBJ, e-SBM, e-SBH, e-SBP, e-SBT, e-BMB and Bank's all superannuation funds, i. e. SBI Employees Gratuity Fund, SBI Employees Provident Fund, SBI Employees Pension Fund, including other associate banks superannuation funds merged with SBI Superannuation funds.
40	66	Appendix-E(1)(c)	-	Request you to provide the list of any ongoing litigation with the tax authorities (including transfer pricing related liigation)	The details of litigation will be shared with selected applicant .
41	18	Appendix-H	-	Request you to confirm that the personnel's visit to the Bank will occur on the date mutually agreed upon.	The selected applicant have to visit the Bank premises/offices on need basis and to effectively discharge the duties of consultant.
42	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	List of international transactions and specified domestic transactions to be covered for filing of Form no. 3CEB	Attestation / filing of Forms is outside purview of RFP.
43	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	List of Associated Enterprises / Related Parties to be covered for filing of Form no. 3CEB	Attestation / filing of Forms is outside purview of RFP.
44	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	Whether detailed Master File needs to be filed	We could not get the query. 'Master File' is not mentioned anywhere in the RFP.
45	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1a)	-	Whether Country-by-Country Report (CbCR) needs to be filed	Not in the scope of work of this RFP.
46	66	Appendix-E(1)(b)(4) & (6)	-	In our role as consultants we cannot provide an opinion on the accounting issues. Alternatively we can structure this as a "review and recommend" engagement	Kindly refer to RFP. "Providing opinion on accounting issues relating to current tax/ deferred tax/ contingent liabilities etc based on accounting guidelines applicable to the Bank as on that point of time. " However, the final view on following the opinion on accounting issues will be of the management of the Bank.
47	66	Appendix-E(1)(b)(4) & (6)	-	Are there any specific tax related accounting issue(s) being faced by the bank currently or in the past for the purposes of our reference and understanding?	The details will be shared with selected applicant .
48	65	Appendix-E	-	Whether --- can deploy its inhouse developed TDS tool?	No, Bank's in house customised tool will be available for use by SBI, its branches/offices.
49	65	Appendix E	-	Please specify the Enterprice Resource Planner (ERP) along with its version used by SBI	The details will be shared with selected applicant .
50	65	Appendix E	-	Whether --- can deploy extractors in SBI ERP systems for data retrieval	No, the selected applicant shall work in tandem with our IT service provider and place the request of data in the specified format of IT service provider.

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
51	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1c)	-	With respect to WHT Compliances , please provide the following details: -No of vendors (Resident/ Non Resident) for all entities - No of TANs - No of total purchase transactions per annum - No of transactions on which TDS is applicable (out of total purchase transactions)	The Bank centralised TDS from 1.04.2017 and as on date, there are 81 active central TANs for filing returns. The volume/frequency of transactions/returns will be dependant of business / TDS rules. Data of earlier years shall be provided to the selected bidder on need basis.  The bidder is not expected to prepare returns but is required to provide necessary advices/guidance/views/inputs in preparation of returns/ uploading of data.
52	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1c)	-	Please provide an estimate of Form 15CA, 15 CC to be filed in a year including the estimated number of transactions to be reported in the Form 15CC	The details will be shared with selected applicant . 15CA will be issued by Bank and the bidder is expected to provide necessary advices/guidance/views/inputs in preparation of Forms/ uploading of data.
53	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1b)	-	Please provide an estimate on number of transactions in the each type of SFT form filed by the bank	The details will be shared with selected applicant . SFT returns will be prepared by Bank and the bidder is expected to provide necessary advices/guidance/views/ inputs in preparation/generation/rectification of return/ uploading of data.
54	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)	-	Please clarify whether the scope of services provided includes preparation of advance tax computation	Advance tax is to be paid as per applicable Income Tax provisions. The selected applicant is required to provide advices/guidance on the methodology for computation of advance tax. Further, they may guide the deductions and disallowances to be considered for computation of advance tax.
55	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(5)	-	Please clarify on the estimated number of challans required to be corrected on the basis of past experience	Few instances on case to case basis depending upon the facts/circumstances.
56	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1b)	-	Please clarify as to assistance required in relation to guidance in handling of customer complaints on SFT	The selected applicant is required to provide the income tax provisions related to SFT reporting and provide the guidance on how to reduce the customer complaints and make compliance to Income tax provisions.
57	65	Appendix-E(1)(a)(1c)	-	Please clarify on the assistance required in relation to the Form 15G and 15H	The selected applicant is required to provide the income tax provisions related to 15G/15H reporting and make compliance to Income tax provisions.
58	3	Schedule of events - 1(6)	-	Kindly extend period between provision of Clarifications to our queries and the last date for bid submission to at least 6 weeks.	Kindly be guided by RFP. The Last date of Bid submission is 11.03.2025, in case same is extended the participants shall be informed.
59	24	29 - Right to Audit	-	Can remove the audit clause or least limit the same to the fees and expenses by SBI only.	The Bank being a public sector Bank under regulations of the various regulators such as RBI, SEBI, Government of India and has to undergo various audits as and when required. Therefore, kindly refer to clause 29 - Right to Audit
60	67	Appendix-E(1)(d)	-	Whether the support services include secondment of employees	Please refer to RFP terms.
61	38	43 - Termination for Convenience	-	Whether PW & Co LLP can also include termination rights from their end	Please refer to RFP terms.
62	24	Appendix-B(9)	-	With regard to client references, the details are confidential in nature and hence all details cannot be shared.	Please provide the basic details in the Format prescribed in the RFP .
63	95	16 -General Indemnity	-	Whether we can limit the indemnity up to the contract fees.	Please refer to RFP terms.
64	26	32- Limitation of liability	-	With respect to the limitation of liability clause can we remove the clauses set forth in 32(iii) which will make the liability limited only to the fees itself.	Please refer to RFP terms.
65	28	35(iv)	-	Time limit for reporting of incidents should be extended to at least 24 hours	Please refer to RFP terms.
66	127	Appendix - P	-	Are we expected to receive any personal data as part of the engagement? In which case Appendix - P should only be applicable in cases of receipt of personal data	Please refer to RFP terms.
67		(i) of Clause 4	“The Bank” ‘means the State Bank of India (including domestic branches and foreign offices),	Kindly confirm our below understanding: • reference to 'foreign offices' only includes foreign branches of the Bank and does not include any other foreign subsidiary / group entity / affiliate / joint venture. • as regards foreign offices, the scope will be limited to tax and TDS / TCS implications as per (Indian) Income-tax Act as relevant for consolidation at whole Bank level and it shall not entail tax services in the respective foreign jurisdiction.  Kindly elaborate on the exact support / requirement for domestic branches as we understand that generally, each branch has an independent tax consultant to look into their routine tax matters. Moreover, we understand that all the queries from various branches will be routed through the FRT department (being the focal point of contact) and direct communication with individual branches will not be required.	Foreign offices means foreign Branches/offices of the Bank  TDS is centralized at SBI and all TDS related works are done at FRT only. No direct communication with the Branches to be done by the consultant.

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
68		Clause 5.2 of Appendix I - Service Level Agreement	The Bank shall arrange for the Heads of the Departments to attend meetings for the purposes explaining the processes and controls of the relevant Department to the Consultancy Team	While personnel from the respective heads of department [HODs] would be present in meetings, for the purposes of explaining the process / controls, we understand that the focal point of contact for the consultant would be the FRT department only. In other words, the consultant will not be required to liaise and / or work directly with the respective HODs for obtaining data / clarifications, etc. Kindly confirm.	FRT will be the focal point of contact for the consultant
69		(vii) of Clause 35	The Service Provider shall execute Data Processing Agreement on the format attached as Appendix-P to this RFP.	Kindly let us know if any personal/ sensitive personal information of EU data subjects protected under EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 will be received/processed/transferred. If yes, kindly elaborate on the nature of such information.	Please refer to RFP terms.
70		Sr. No. 10 of Appendix B1- Particulars of Firm	Name(s) of partners * (Self-attested membership certificates issued by ICAI should be enclosed)	Kindly confirm if it is mandatory to submit the self-attested copies of the membership certificates of each partner or if alternatively the ICAI member firm card giving therein the list of partners along with the membership numbers would suffice, considering the bulkiness of the document / attachment.	This will suffice, provided all the details are available in the ICAI member firm card.
71		Appendix B- 3, B-4 and B- 5	Balance sheet size immediately before merger would be considered for Bank's which have merged before 31.03.2024. In all cases, financial statements as on 31-03-2024 or on the date of merger shall be provided by the bidder.	We understand that where the balance sheet immediately prior to merger or as on date of merger is not available in public domain, the latest audited pre-merger balance sheet of the merging entity would suffice. For instance, if entity A merged with entity B in October 2023. In this case, the balance sheet as on 31 March 2023 (being the latest pre-merger balance sheet) of entity A should shall suffice as a supporting document - kindly confirm.	Your understanding is broadly correct in this regard.
72		Appendix E - Scope of work	<p>We have provided the terms of reference / scope wherein we request for clarifications as under:</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(1)(a)</b> To provide assistance, advice/guidance/view, review and filing of various forms required under the Income-tax Act namely annual Income-tax Return/Tax Audit/Transfer Pricing/From 10CCF (Section 80LA)/Form 67/Other Tax reports/forms/returns as applicable to the Bank/eABS/superannuation funds from time to time.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(1)(b)</b> Form 61, Form 61A – SFT Return, Guidance in handling of customer complaints on SFT.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(1)(c)</b> TDS/TCS returns, Form 15CA, Form 15CC and other related returns/forms (viz. 15G / 15H, 26QA, 26QAA) - both original and revised</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(2)(a)</b> To work in close co-ordination with Information Technology (IT) department of the Bank to, inter-alia: a. Examine / Review the existing TDS / TCS functionalities/platforms available at Bank at regular intervals and development of existing / future software platforms of the Bank, Validation of Business Requirement Document &amp; Solution documents to align with the changes made in TDS / TCS provisions by Regulators / operations from time to time and review the exception reports generated by such systems. Submit the review report thereon and provide guidance / assistance to IT team for making necessary developments / changes in these platforms.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(2)(b)</b> Examine/Review the existing functionalities/platforms available at Bank, development of other future software platforms of the Bank in tune with Litigation tool management, computation of Provision for Taxes, determining the</p>	<p><b>(1)(a)(1a)</b> We understand that the consultant has to only provide views / suggestions on the details to be mentioned in the TAR or provide any clarifications / advise on the applicability of any particular clause or other aspects of the tax audit report, transfer pricing report and other forms to ensure that the impact has been correctly considered therein' the consultant will not be required to provide any certification services in relation to the aforesaid forms. Please confirm our understanding.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(1)(b) and (1)(a)(2)(a)</b> We understand that the scope of work will be restricted to review of the returns / forms, as prepared/ generated by the Banks TDS software systems/ IT platform, based on the data entry by Bank's personnel and the consultant/ its deputed personnel shall not be required to undertake any actual data entry/ preparation of the returns – kindly confirm our understanding or elaborate further on the exact role requirement.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(1)(b)</b> We understand that the consultant's role will be merely to assist the bank personnel in handling the customer complaints at the back end and in no case the consultant will be required to interact directly with the customers / their consultants (i.e. no customer interface) – Kindly confirm our understanding or elaborate further on the exact role requirement.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(2)(a)</b> We understand that the role of consultant would be to provide the details of tax law changes / updates and it will be the responsibility of IT developers of the Bank to develop the system formulas from an IT perspective and make necessary changes in the platforms. Kindly confirm our understanding.</p> <p>Also, we understand that consultant will only be required to review the logics / system changes when requested by the Bank on need basis and the role in that case shall be restricted to review of the logic from TDS / TCS perspective on the basis of samples / solution documents provided to the consultant.</p> <p><b>(1)(a)(2)(b)</b> We understand that the said scope only covers high-level inputs / suggestions on existing softwares of the Bank, as well as providing generic inputs from the perspective of tax provisions for development of litigation tool management, and it does not include extensive review, participation in the</p>	<p>Understanding broadly appears to be correct. Please refer RFP Terms.</p> <p>(1)(a)(2)(b) As regards litigation tool consultant shall do extensive review, participation in the entire tool development process (including testing of the tool), etc</p>
73			<b>(1)(d)</b> To make available two qualified chartered accountants (with minimum three years post qualification experience in income tax/TDS/TCS /accounting matters as on date of RFP) and three other officials (graduates, having experience in the field of income tax/TDS/TCS /accounting of minimum 2 years as on date of RFP) to TDS and Tax section on permanent basis. These officials have to follow the working hours / working days of the Bank and will have to make their own travelling arrangements. These officials will be posted for the entire contact period except in case of resignation/separation from your organisation or on request by the Bank to change. In other circumstances, these officials can be changed/transferred out with prior approval from the Bank.	<b>(1)(d)</b> Kindly confirm on the exact particulars of the stationing requirements of the employees such as code of conducts of Bank to be adhered to, by them etc.	(1)(d) The stationed employees need to follow Bank's Holiday/working hours and have to follow general office decorum/dress code, guidelines on Integrity and Women safety guidelines etc issued by the Bank from time to time.

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
74	50	Sr. No. 5 of Appendix B - Bidder's Eligibility Criteria Part (a) - Mandatory Eligibility Criteria	At least 1 partner/employee of the firm should have argued/represented more than 10 cases before ITAT (during 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024) for Scheduled commercial Bank except RRB /Financial Institutions having Balance Sheet size of more than Rs 75,000 crores as on 31.03.2024 or other listed company with Indian Stock Exchange having balance sheet size of Rs 25,000 crore as on 31.03.2024	The objective of this seems to be whether the Firm an or its partners have sufficient experiences before Tax Tribunals and whether they have sufficient experience of Banking Insdustry. Therefore, restricting the eligibility only to ITAT is restrictive in nature and instead, the Bank may consider to modify the same to state that as long as Applicant has argued before any Tax Tribunal instituted under the law representing the Banks with the size mentioned in the eiligibility criteria, the Applicant would satisfy the conditions having knowledge and experience of representing Banks on issues relevant to Banking sector. We therefore request that that the term 'ITAT' be replaced with 'Tax Tribunal'.	Please refer to RFP terms.
75	59	Appendix C - Technical Eligibility Criteria Part (a) Marks for Technical Parameters - Sr. No. 5	<b>Evaluation Parameters:</b> Experience of using customized Litigation Management Software (LMS) developed by self or Firm/Company of same network <b>Criteria:</b> Declaration specifying the software used and the period for which it has been used <b>Max Score:</b> 10	In view of the fact that existence of Litigation Management Software is a desirable criteria, we request you to kindly relook on aspect of assigning marks for desirable criteria.	Please refer to RFP terms.
76	General query	General query	General query	(i) What is the start date of the project?	The likely start date of the project will be 01.04.2025 or the completion of RFP Process, whichever is later.
77				(ii) Who is the current tax consultant of the Bank?	Current Tax consultant of the Bank is one of the leading Tax Consultant of India. Details will be shared with the selected bidder.
78	Page. 50	Point 5 of Part (a)- Mandatory Eligibility Criteria	Point 5 of Part (a)- Mandatory Eligibility Criteria	Will representation in 10 cases in the past 6-7 years before CIT(A) be considered in lieu of representation before ITAT?	Please refer to RFP terms.
79	Page. 65	1 (a) - Basic Responsibilities	1 (a) - Basic Responsibilities	What is the total number of entities of SBI for which the services mentioned in the RFP are requested?	The scope of work includes consultancy for the Bank i.e. SBI and including banks already merged with SBI i.e. e-SBS, e-SBICI, e-SBIN, e-SBBJ, e-SBM, e-SBH, e-SBP, e-SBT, e-BMB and Bank's all superannuation funds, i. e. SBI Employees Gratuity Fund, SBI Employees Provident Fund, SBI Employees Pension Fund, including other associate banks superannuation funds merged with SBI Superannuation funds.
80	Page. 65	Point 1(c) forming part of (a) Basic Respsibilities	Point 1(c) forming part of (a) Basic Respsibilities	In case of attestation services like Form 15CB, whether the same is also include in the attached scope of work?	The signing of Form 15CB is not included in the scope of work, however Bank may seek guidance/advices related to 15CA/15CB and applicable taxes thereon, whenever required.
81	Page. 65	1 (a) - Basic Responsibilities	1 (a) - Basic Responsibilities	How many TANs are obtained by Bank?	The Bank centralised TDS from 1.04.2017 and as on date, there are 81 active central TANs for filing returns. The volume/frequency of transactions/returns will be dependant of business / TDS rules. Data of earlier years shall be provided to the selected bidder on need basis.
82	Page. 66	1 (c) - Appeals / Assessment Proceedings	1 (c) - Appeals / Assessment Proceedings	(i) With regards to the litigation services, what are the typical open issues involved and for how many / for which years and at what level the Bank is under litigation?	The details will be shared with selected applicant .
83				(ii) What are the number of appeals currently open and what are the typical number of hearings that take place in a year?	The details will be shared with selected applicant .
84				(iii) Is there an existing Counsel appointed by the Bank, for representing the matters before the higher appellate authorities? If not, will there be an external counsel and if yes, who will appoint the Counsel?	The details will be shared with selected applicant .
85	Page. 66	1 (b) - Advisory Services	1 (b) - Advisory Services	(i) Will the advisory work include cross-border transactions requiring DTAA analysis?	(i). DTAA analysis from Indian perspective will be as a part of the advisory services, whenever asked by the Bank
86				(ii) What is the quantum of such transactions involved?	(ii). The details will be shared with selected applicant .
87	Page. 66	Point 9 forming part of 1 (b) Advisory Services	Point 9 forming part of 1 (b) Advisory Services	We understand that the scope of work involves providing 'trainings to the Bank's staff', request you to clarify: - On what topics are the trainings required? - How frequently are these trainings required to be undertaken?	Whenever there is any changes in Income Tax Rules/Bills and after each budget in addition to periodical training (normally being quarterly/ half-yearly). Sometime we may need special training sessions for staff to understand any particular Income Tax Rules/guidelines.

Sr. No.	RFP Page No.	RFP Clause No.	Existing Clause	Query/Suggestions	Point wise Responses from SBI
88	Page. 66	1 (b) - Advisory Services	1 (b) - Advisory Services	With regards to the opinions/ views/tax positions adopted by the Bank on any of the matters, can we follow the existing opinions or do we need to revalidate the same?	the selected applicant will be reviewing the opinions/views/tax positions adopted by the Bank and advise their views. Wherever the selected applicant is of the view to change the position, they may be required to revalidate the position.
89	Page. 67	1 (d) - Support Services	1 (d) - Support Services	With regards to the employees to be deputed at the Bank's office: - Whom will the deputed employees report? - Who will review the work of the deputed employees? - Will any other staff member from the client side be involved in carrying out the work?	With regards to the employees deputed to the Bank's office - the deputed staff will report to AGM/DGM(Taxation)/CFO - review of the work will be done by the Bank for our internal assessment. However, review of the deputed staff for their salary/wages/promotion is to be done by the service provider - Leave arrangement and other work related to deputed staffs are to be handled by the service provider. The consultancy/advisory/litigation support service shall be provided by the staff at office of service provider. - The Bank has a dedicated tax/ TDS team the bidder support staff shall work in coordination with the Bank's team on day to day basis.
90	Page. 68	1 (d) - Support Services	1 (d) - Support Services	We understand the scope of work involves only assistance in preparing the Form 3CD i.e., Tax Audit Report, Transfer Pricing Report and such other forms and reports. The scope does not include signing/ attestation services for the same anywhere in the scope of work and in any manner.	No attestation service is expected in relation to the reports to be submitted to Income Tax department. However, the selected applicant has to review and provide advice/guidance/views on the Tax audit report and transfer pricing report.
91	Page. 46		In this regard, we would like to bring your attention to point xv of Appendix-A of the RFP – Bid Form (Technical Bid), which requires us to certify that we and our group companies / affiliates are not the Statutory Central Auditor (SCA) etc. of domestic and / or foreign branches of the Bank and/ or its group entities. Alternatively, if there is an audit relationship and in case we are selected for this assignment, we or our group companies / affiliates would be required to give up the audit assignment before accepting this contract of consultancy by us'. The list of the Bank's group entities is given in Appendix A-1 - attached.	We understand that the genesis of this requirement stems from Section 144 of the Companies Act. You would appreciate that the restrictions under section 144 of the Companies Act apply where non-audit services are rendered to the company itself or its holding company or its subsidiary. Notably, there is no restriction whatsoever where services are rendered to an associate/ JV.	The genesis of this clause is from RBI Guidelines for Appointment of Statutory Central Auditors (SCAs)/Statutory Auditors (SAs) of Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs), UCBs and NBFCs (including HFCs) dt 27th April 2021. RBI vide FAQ dated 11/06/2021 has issued necessary clarifications, as given below:  1. As per Para 6.4, whether the time gap of one year between any non-audit works by the SCAs/SAs for the Entities or any audit/non-audit works for its Group Entities has to be ensured for all the Entities in the Group or the RBI Regulated Entities in the Group?  The Group Entities refer to the RBI Regulated Entities in the Group, which fulfill the definition of Group Entity, as provided in the Circular1. However, if an audit firm engaged with audit/non-audit works for the Group Entities (which are not regulated by RBI) is being considered by any of the RBI Regulated Entities in the Group for appointment as SCAs/SAs, it would be the responsibility of the Board/ACB/LMC of the concerned RBI Regulated Entity to ensure that there is no conflict of interest and independence of auditors is ensured, and this should be suitably recorded in the minutes of the meetings of Board/ACB/LMC.  Accordingly, the firm doing audit work of SBI group entity which is not regulated by RBI is eligible to apply for consultancy to SBI.
92	Page 50	Sr. No. 4 of Appendix B - Bidder's Eligibility Criteria Part (a) - Mandatory Eligibility Criteria	Between 01-04-2018 to 31-12-2024, the Applicant should have acted as consultant or Statutory Central Auditor (SCA) of at least one Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) (other than Regional Rural Bank (RRB)/ Financial Institutions(FI) having Balance sheet size of more than Rs. 75,000 crores as on 31-03-2024. The scope of consultancy should include Bank's Corporate Income Tax, TDS & TCS related matters/ advisory services with respect to Income Tax. (At least one year of continuous engagement from 01.04.2018 to 31.12.2024)	The objective of this seems to be whether the Firm an or its partners have sufficient experience in tax matters and whether they have sufficient experience of Banking Industry. Therefore, restricting the eligibility only to Income tax, TDS and TCS is restrictive in nature and instead, the Bank may consider to modify the same to state that as long as Applicant has rendered consultancy services in tax matters, including Indirect Taxes, representing the Banks with the size mentioned in the eligibility criteria, the Applicant would satisfy the conditions having knowledge and experience of advising Banks on issues relevant to Banking sector. We therefore request that that the eligibility criteria be modified to include indirect tax consultancy.	Please refer to RFP terms.