

**IN THE INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL  
DELHI BENCH, 'E': NEW DELHI**

**BEFORE SHRI SATBEER SINGH GODARA, JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**AND**

**SHRI AMITABH SHUKLA, ACCOUNTNAT MEMBER**

**ITA Nos.5303 & 5304/DEL/2025  
[Assessment Years: 2013-14 and 2014-15]**

|  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| STIC Travels Pvt. Ltd.<br>G-55, Connaught Circus<br>New Delhi-110001 | Vs | Deputy Commissioner of Income<br>Tax, Circle-24(2),<br>C.R. Building, I.P. Estate<br>New Delhi-110002 |
| <b>PAN-AAACS2231E</b>  |    |   |
| Assessee   |    | Revenue   |

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Assessee by | Shri Atul Puri, CA       |
| Revenue by  | Ms. Ankush Kalra, Sr. DR |

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Date of Hearing</b>       | <b>14.01.2026</b> |
| <b>Date of Pronouncement</b> | <b>14.01.2026</b> |

**ORDER**

**PER AMITABH SHUKLA, AM,**

The captioned appeals have been preferred by the assessee against order both dated 28.07.2025 of the Learned Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals)-31, New Delhi, [hereinafter referred to as 'ld. CIT(A)] arising out of assessment orders both dated 22.03.2019 passed u/s 271(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 pertaining to Assessment Years 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. The word 'Act' herein this order would mean Income Tax Act, 1961.

2. As the both the appeals involves the issue of levy of penalty, they were heard together and are being adjudicated by this common order. Considering the commonality of the issue, decision taken in AY 2013-14 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to AY 2014-15. For the purposes of this order, AY 2013-14 is being taken as lead year.

3. The ld. Assessing Officer passed order dated 22.03.2019 under section 271(1)(c) for AY 2013-14. The ld. AO, inter alia, considering judicial precedents on the issue of penalty, imposed the penalty upon the premises that ld. CIT(A) has confirmed the addition on account of default revenue expenses. The ld. CIT(A) confirmed the penalty order concurring with the findings of the ld. AO.

4. Per contra, the ld. DR placed reliance upon the order of the lower authorities.

5. We have heard the rival submissions in the light of the material placed on record. It is the case of the assessee that there has neither been a case of wilful concealment or submission of inaccurate particulars of income on the part of the assessee. The ld. Counsel argued that the issue of default revenue expenditure is a debatable issue and that the same therefore would not attract invocation of penalty under section 271(1)(c) of the Act. Upon consideration of the matter, we find merit in the arguments of the appellant assessee. We are of the considered view that either of the twin ingredients of wilful concealment or

submission of inaccurate particulars of income on the part of the assessee are not available in the present case so as to attract imposition of penalty under section 271(1)(c) of the Act. Accordingly, the orders of lower authorities is set-aside and the penalty under section 271(1)(c) of the Act imposed vide order dated 22.03.2019 is directed to be deleted. All the grounds of appeal raised by the appellant assessee are therefore allowed.

6. In the result, the appeal of the assessee for AY 2013-14 is allowed.

7. We have noted that the facts for the AY 2013-14 in assessee's appeal vide ITA No.5303/Del/2025 are identical to ITA No.5304/Del/2025, decision taken for AY 2013-14 would apply *mutatis mutandis* to AY 2014-15. Accordingly, all the grounds of appeal for AY 2014-15 in ITA No.5304/Del/2015 are also allowed.

8. Finally, both the appeals of the assessee are allowed.

Order pronounced in the open court on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2026.

**Sd/-**  
**[SATBEER SINGH GODARA]**  
**JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**Sd/-**  
**[AMITABH SHUKLA]**  
**ACCOUNTANT MEMBER**

**Dated:** 16.01.2026

*Shekhar*

Copy forwarded to:

1. Appellant
2. Respondent

3. PCIT
4. CIT(A)
5. DR

Asst. Registrar,  
ITAT, New Delhi,