

## ORDER-IN-APPEAL

Shri Bhikhabhai Raghunathbhai Chaudhari, Meghaliyasana, 149K, Mehasana, Gujarat-384000 (hereinafter referred to as **'appellant'**) has filed present appeal against Order bearing reference No.ZA240721230707P dated19.07.2021 for cancellation of Registration (hereinafter referred to as **'impugned order**'), issued by Superintendent, Range-1, Division- Mehasana, Gandhinagar Commissionerate- (hereinafter referred to as **'adjudicating authority'**).

2. Brief facts of the case are that the "adjudicating authority" had issued a SCN bearing No. ZA240521082940P dated 27.05.2021 with the reason that the appellant has not filed the GST return for a continuous period of six months. Further, the appellant did not submit the reply of SCN within stipulated time; hence the adjudicating authority has cancelled the GST registration of the appellant as per order reference No. ZA240721230707P dated 19.07.2021 with the reason that the response to SCN not received. The effective date of cancellation of registration is 23/03/2021.

**3.1** Being aggrieved with the *'impugned order'* dated 19.07.2021, the *"appellant"* has filed the present appeal on 24.02.2022, i.e. after the delay of normal period prescribed under Section 107(1) of CGST Act, 2017. The *"appellant"* has submitted that their registration no. has been cancelled from 23.03.2021. Further the appellant has submitted that they could not file the GST returns in times due to lack of knowledge of GST Act and due to misrepresentations by consultant. But now the appellant has agreed to file GST returns in time and they have filed GST returns up to March-2021. The appellant has requested to revoke the cancellation of registration

## Personal Hearing :-

4. The personal hearing in the matter was fixed on 24.03.2022 on virtual mode but due to some reasons the meeting was not held. The appellant vide mail dated 25.03.2022 has submitted that they don't want Personal Hearing in the matter and matter may decided on the basis of earlier submissions. In view of the submission made by the appellant I take appeal for order.



Page 1 of 7

## **Discussion and Findings :-**

5. I have gone through the facts of the case, written submissions made by the 'appellant'. I find that the main issue to be decided in the instant case is (i) whether the appeal has been filed within the prescribed time- limit and (ii) whether the appeal filed against the order of cancellation of registration can be considered for revocation/restoration of cancelled registration by the proper officer.

**6.** First of all, I would like to take up the issue of filing the appeal and before deciding the issue of filing the appeal on merits, it is imperative that the statutory provisions be gone through, which are reproduced, below:

**SECTION 107.** Appeals to Appellate Authority. — (1) Any person aggrieved by any decision or order passed under this Act or the State Goods and Services Tax Act or the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Act by an adjudicating authority may appeal to such Appellate Authority as may be prescribed within three months from the date on which the said decision or order is communicated to such person.

(2) .....

(3) ,....

(4) The Appellate Authority may, if he is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from presenting the appeal within the aforesaid period of three months or six months, as the case may be, allow it to be presented within a *further period of one month*.

7.1 I observed that in the instant case the appeal has been filed by delay from the normal period prescribed under Section 107(1) of the CGST Act, 2017. I find that though the delay in filing the appeal is condonable only for a further period of one month provided that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from presenting the appeal is shown and the delay of more than one month is not condonable under the provisions of sub section (4) of Section 107 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017.

**7.2** Further, in the above context, I find that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed order on 10.01.2022 in matter of Miscellaneous Application No. 21 of 2022, in MA 665/2021 IN SMW(C) No. 3 of 2020. The relevant para No. 5 (III) of said order 15 reproduced as under:

Pag

5. Taking into consideration the arguments advanced by learned counsel and the impact of the surge of the virus on public health and adversities faced by litigants in the prevailing conditions, we deem it appropriate to dispose of the M.A. No. 21 of 2022 with the following direction: ances Therefore, we dispose of the M.A. No. 665 of 2021 with the following directions:-

**III.** In cases where the limitation would have expired during the period between 15.03.2020 till 28.02.2022, notwithstanding the actual balance period of limitation remaining, all persons shall have a limitation period of 90 days from 01.03.2022. In the event the actual balance period of limitation remaining, with effect from 01.03.2022, is greater than 90 days, that longer period shall apply.

In the present appeal, the "*impugned order*" is of 19.07.2021 so the normal appeal period of three months was available upto 18.10.2021. Further, looking to the 'COD' application of *appellant* as well as Covid-19 pandemic situation the present appeal is condonable for one month as per Section 107(4) of the CGST Act, 2017. Accordingly, the appeal was required to be filed before 18.11.2021. Now, as per the Para 5(III) of the aforesaid order of Hon'ble Supreme Court the *appellant* became eligible to file appeal within three months from 01.03.2022. It is pertinent to mention here that the *appellant* has filed the present appeal on 24.02.2022 that is to say that appeal filed within 3 months from 01.03.2022.

**7.3** I also find that the CBIC, New Delhi has issued Circular No. 157/13/121-GST dated 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 and clarified as under:-

4(c):- Appeals by taxpayers/ tax authorities against any quasi-judicial order:-Wherever any appeal is required to filed before Joint/ Additional Commissioner (Appeals), Commissioner (Appeals), Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling, Tribunal and various courts against any quasi-judicial order or where a proceeding for revision or rectification of any order is required to be undertaken, the time line for the same would stand extended as per the .Hon'ble Supreme Court's order.

5. In other words, the extension of timelines granted by Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 27.04.2021 is applicable in respect of any appeal which is required to be filed before Joint/ Additional Commissioner (Appeals),

Page 3 of 7

Commissioner (Appeals), Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling, Tribunal and various courts against any quasi-judicial order or where proceeding for revision or rectification of any order is required to be undertaken, and is not applicable to any other proceedings under GST Laws.

7.4 In view of above and also looking into the **Covid-19** pandemic situation in the instant matter, I am inclined to condone the delay of filing of appeal. Therefore, I find that the present appeal is filed within stipulated time limit.

Accordingly, I am proceeded to decide the case.

8. I have gone through the facts of the case and the written submissions made by the *appellant*. I find that the adjudicating authority/proper officer has cancelled the registration with effect from 23.03.2021 as the *appellant* failed to file GST Returns for a continuous period of more than six months.

Further, I find that the provisions of revocation of cancellation of registration when the same is cancelled by the proper officer on suo moto basis are contained in Section 30 of the CGST Act, 2017 and Rule 23 of the CGST Rules, 2017. Therefore, I find it pertinent to refer Section 30 and Rule 23 as under: -

**SECTION 30.** Revocation of cancellation of registration. — (1) Subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, any registered person, whose registration is cancelled by the proper officer on his own motion, may apply to such officer for revocation of cancellation of the registration in the prescribed manner within thirty days from the date of service of the cancellation order : [**Provided** that such period may, on sufficient cause being shown, and for reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended, -

(a) by the Additional Commissioner or the Joint Commissioner, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding thirty days;

(b) by the Commissioner, for a further period not exceeding thirty days, beyond the period specified in clause (a).]

(2) The proper officer may, in such manner and within such period as may be prescribed, by order, either revoke cancellation of the registration or reject the application :



**Provided** that the application for revocation of cancellation of registration shall not be rejected unless the applicant has been given an opportunity of being heard.

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(3) The revocation of cancellation of registration under the State Goods and Services Tax Act or the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Act, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be a revocation of cancellation of registration under this Act.

**RULE 23.** Revocation of cancellation of registration. — (1) A registered person, whose registration is cancelled by the proper officer on his own motion, may submit an application for revocation of cancellation of registration, in **FORM GST REG-21**\*, to such proper officer, within a period of thirty days from the date of the service of the order of cancellation of registration at the common portal, either directly or through a Facilitation Centre notified by the Commissioner :

**Provided** that no application for revocation shall be filed, if the registration has been cancelled for the failure of the registered person to furnish returns, unless such returns are furnished and any amount due as tax, in terms of such returns, has been paid along with any amount payable towards interest, penalty and late fee in respect of the said returns :

[**Provided** further that all returns due for the period from the date of the order of cancellation of registration till the date of the order of revocation of cancellation of registration shall be furnished by the said person within a period of thirty days from the date of order of revocation of cancellation of registration :

**Provided** also that where the registration has been cancelled with retrospective effect, the registered person shall furnish all returns relating to period from the effective date of cancellation of registration till the date of order of revocation of cancellation of registration within a period of thirty days from the date of order of revocation of cancellation of registration.]

(2) (a) Where the proper officer is satisfied, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that there are sufficient grounds for revocation of cancellation of registration, he shall revoke the cancellation of registration by an order in **FORM GST REG-22**\* within a period of thirty days from the date of the receipt of the application and communicate the same to the applicant.

(b) The proper officer may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, under circumstances other than those specified in clause (a), by an order in **FORM GST REG-05\***, reject the application for revocation of cancellation of registration and communicate the same to the applicant.

Page 5 of 7

(3) The proper officer shall, before passing the order referred to in clause (b) of sub-rule (2), issue a notice in **FORM GST REG-23**\* requiring the applicant to show cause as to why the application submitted for revocation under sub-rule

(1) should not be rejected and the applicant shall furnish the reply within a period of seven working days from the date of the service of the notice in **FORM GST REG-24**\*.

(4) Upon receipt of the information or clarification in **FORM GST REG-24**\*, the proper officer shall proceed to dispose of the application in the manner specified in sub-rule (2) within a period of thirty days from the date of the receipt of such information or clarification from the applicant.

**9.** Further, I find that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, New Delhi has clarified the issue vide circular No. 99/18/2019-GST dated 23.04.2019. Para 3 of said circular read as under:

3. First proviso to sub-rule (1) of rule 23 of the said Rules provides that if the registration has been cancelled on account of failure of the registered person to furnish returns, no application for revocation of cancellation of registration shall be filed, unless such returns are furnished and any amount in terms of such returns is paid. Thus, where the registration has been cancelled with effect from the date of order of cancellation of registration, all returns due till the date of such cancellation are required to be furnished before the application for revocation can be filed. Further, in such cases, in terms of the second proviso to sub-rule (1) of rule 23 of the said Rules, all returns required to be furnished in respect of the period from the date of order of cancellation and registration have to be furnished within a period of thirty days from the date of the order of revocation.

10. On going through the records/submissions, I find that the *appellant* has declared in the appeal memorandum that they have filed GST Returns till March-2021 i.e. till the date of cancellation of registration and also informed that no GST liability is pending. This has also been verified from on line GST portal. Hence, I find that the *appellant* has complied with the above said provisions in the instant case. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the registration of *appellant* may be considered for revocation by the appellant under Rule 23(1) of CGST

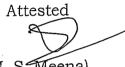
Rules, 2017. Accordingly, I allow the appeal of the *appellant* and order to the proper officer to consider the revocation application of the *appellant* after due verification of payment particulars of tax, penalty, late fee, interest and status of returns.

11. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।

**11.** The appeal filed by the appellant stands disposed of in above terms.

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(Mhir Rayka) Additional Commissioner (Appeals) Date: .03.2022



(H. S. Meena) Superintendent Central Tax (Appeals) Ahmedabad

## <u>By R.P.A.D.</u> To,

M/s Shri Bhikhabhai Raghunathbhai Chaudhari, Meghaliyasana, 149K, Mehasana, Gujarat-384000

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Ahmedabad Zone.

- 2. The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Appeals, Ahmedabad.
- 3. The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Gandhinagar.
- 4. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex, Division-Mehasana.
- 5. The Additional Commissioner, Central Tax (System), Gandhinagar
- 6. The Superintendent, CGST, Range-I, Div. Mehasana.
- 7. Guard File.
- 8. P.A. File