रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी. द्वारा

: आयुक्त (अपील -I) का कार्यालय, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, :
: सैन्टल एक्साइज भवन, सातवीं मंजिल, पौलिटैक्नीक के पास, :
: आंबावाडी, अहमदाबाद– 380015. :

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क फाइल संख्या : File No : **V2(GTA)59/Ahd-III/2016-17/Appeal-I** / ~~4253~~ 4249 to 4253

ख अपील आदेश संख्या :Order-In-Appeal No.: **AHM-EXCUS-003-APP-040-17-18**

दिनाँक Date :**07.07.2017** जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue: 17-07-17

श्री उमाशंकर आयुक्त (अपील-I) द्वारा पारित

Passed by **Shri Uma Shanker** Commissioner (Appeals-I)Ahmedabad

ग _____ आयुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, अहमद बाद-III आयुक्तालय द्वारा जारी मूल आदेश सं _____ दिनाँक : _____ से सृजित

Arising out of Order-in-Original: **AHM-STX-003-ADC-AJS-031-16-17** Date: **27.09.2016** Issued by: Additional Commissioner, Central Excise, Din: Mehsana, A'bad-III.

ध अपीलकर्ता एवं प्रतिवादी का नाम एवं पता

Name & Address of the **Appellant** & Respondent

**M/s. Sun Transpoters**

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील या पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

Any person aggrieved by this Order-In-Appeal may file an appeal or revision application, as the one may be against such order, to the appropriate authority in the following way :

भारत सरकार का पुनरीक्षण आवेदन :
**Revision application to Government of India :**

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा अंतर्गत नीचे बताए गए मामलों के बारे में पूर्वोक्त धारा को उप–धारा के प्रथम परन्तुक के अंतर्गत पुनरीक्षण आवेदन अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार, वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग, चौथी मंजिल, जीवन दीप भवन, ससद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली : 110001 को की जानी चाहिए।

(i) A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Govt. of India, Revision Application Unit Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001 under Section 35EE of the CEA 1944 in respect of the following case, governed by first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section-35 ibid :

(ii) यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानि कारखाने से किसी भण्डागार या अन्य कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार से दूसरे भण्डागार में माल ले जाते हुए मार्ग में, या किसी भण्डागार या भण्डार में चाहे वह किसी कारखाने में या किसी भण्डागार में हो माल की प्रकिया के दौरान हुई हो।

(ii) In case of any loss of goods where the loss occur in transit from a factory to a warehouse or to another factory or from one warehouse to another during the course of processing of the goods in a warehouse or in storage whether in a factory or in a warehouse.

(ख) भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित माल पर या माल के विनिर्माण में उपयोग शुल्क कच्चे माल पर उत्पादन शुल्क के रिबेट के मामलें में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।

(b) In case of rebate of duty of excise on goods exported to any country or territory outside India of on excisable material used in the manufacture of the goods which are exported to any country or territory outside India.

(ग) यदि शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर (नेपाल या भूटान को) निर्यात किया गया माल हो।

(c) In case of goods exported outside India export to Nepal or Bhutan, without payment of duty.

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क आयुक्तालय, (अपील-I) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS-I) CENTRAL EXCISE AHMEDABAD अहमदाबाद

ध अंतिम उत्पादन की उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए जो डयूटी केडिट मान्य की गई है और ऐसे आदेश जो इस धारा एवं नियम के मुताबिक आयुक्त, अपील के द्वारा पारित वो समय पर या बाद में वित्त अधिनियम (नं.2) 1998 धारा 109 द्वारा नियुक्त किए गए हो।

(d) Credit of any duty allowed to be utilized towards payment of excise duty on final products under the provisions of this Act or the Rules made there under and such order is passed by the Commissioner (Appeals) on or after, the date appointed under Sec.109 of the Finance (No.2) Act, 1998.

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 के नियम 9 के अंतर्गत विनिर्दिष्ट प्रपत्र संख्या इए–8 में दो प्रतियों में, प्रेषित आदेश के प्रति आदेश प्रेषित दिनाँक से तीन मास के भीतर मूल–आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो–दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ. का मुख्यशीर्ष के अंतर्गत धारा 35–इ में निर्धारित फी के भुगतान के सबूत के साथ टीआर–6 चालान की प्रति भी होनी चाहिए।

The above application shall be made in duplicate in Form No. EA-8 as specified under Rule, 9 of Central Excise (Appeals) Rules, 2001 within 3 months from the date on which the order sought to be appealed against is communicated and shall be accompanied by two copies each of the OIO and Order-In-Appeal. It should also be accompanied by a copy of TR-6 Challan evidencing payment of prescribed fee as prescribed under Section 35-EE of CEA, 1944, under Major Head of Account.

(2) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रूपये या उससे कम हो तो रूपये 200/– फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख से ज्यादा हो तो 1000/– की फीस भुगतान की जाए।

The revision application shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs.200/- where the amount involved is Rupees One Lac or less and Rs.1,000/- where the amount involved is more than Rupees One Lac.

सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपीलः–
Appeal to Custom, Excise, & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35– ण्0बी/35–इ के अंतर्गतः–

Under Section 35B/ 35E of CEA, 1944 an appeal lies to :-

उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद 2 (1) क में बताए अनुसार के अलावा की अपील, अपीलो के मामले में सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरप (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, अहमदाबाद में ओ–20, न्यू मैन्टल हास्पिटल कम्पाउण्ड, मेघाणी नगर, अहमदाबाद–380016.

To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at O-20, New Metal Hospital Compound, Meghani Nagar, Ahmedabad : 380 016. in case of appeals other than as mentioned in para-2(i) (a) above.

(2) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 की धारा 6 के अंतर्गत प्रपत्र इ.ए–3 में निर्धारित किए अनुसार अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरणें की गई अपील के विरूद्व अपील किए गए आदेश की चार प्रतियाँ सहित जहाँ उत्पाद शुल्क की मांग, ब्याज की मांग ओर लगाया गया जुर्माना रूपए 5 लाख या उससे कम है वहां रूपए 1000/– फीस भेजनी होगी। जहाँ उत्पाद शुल्क की मांग, ब्याज की मांग ओर लगाया गया जुर्माना रूपए 5 लाख या 50 लाख तक हो तो रूपए 5000/– फीस भेजनी होगी। जहाँ उत्पाद शुल्क की मांग, ब्याज की मांग ओर लगाया गया जुर्माना रूपए 50 लाख या उससे ज्यादा है वहां रूपए 10000/– फीस भेजनी होगी। की फीस सहायक रजिस्टार के नाम से रेखाकिंत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में संबंध की जाये। यह ड्राफ्ट उस स्थान के किसी नामित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक की शाखा का हो

The appeal to the Appellate Tribunal shall be filed in quadruplicate in form EA-3 as prescribed under Rule 6 of Central Excise(Appeal) Rules, 2001 and shall be accompanied against (one which at least should be accompanied by a fee of Rs.1,000/-, Rs.5,000/- and Rs.10,000/- where amount of duty / penalty / demand / refund is upto 5 Lac, 5 Lac to 50 Lac and above 50 Lac respectively in the form of crossed bank draft in favour of Asstt. Registar of a branch of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominate public sector bank of the place where the bench of the Tribunal is situated

(3) यदि इस आदेश में कई मूल आदेशों का समावेश होता है तो प्रत्येक मूल ओदश के लिए फीस का भुगतान उपर्युक्त ढंग से किया जाना चाहिए इस तथ्य के होते हुए भी कि लिखा पढी कर्य से बचने के लिए यथास्थिति अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को एक अपील या केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक आवेदन किया जाता हैं।

In case of the order covers a number of order-in-Original, fee for each O.I.O. should be paid in the aforesaid manner not withstanding the fact that the one appeal to the Appellant Tribunal or the one application to the Central Govt. As the case may be, is filled to avoid scriptoria work if excising Rs. 1 lacs fee of Rs.100/- for each.

(4) न्यायालय शुल्क अधिनियम 1970 यथा संशोधित की अनुसूचि–1 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए अनुसार उक्त आवेदन या मूल आदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रति पर रू.6.50 पैसे का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट लगा होना चाहिए।

One copy of application or O.I.O. as the case may be, and the order of the adjournment authority shall beer a court fee stamp of Rs.6.50 paisa as prescribed under scheduled-I item of the court fee Act, 1975 as amended.

(5) इन ओर संबंधित मामलों को नियंत्रण करने वाले नियमों की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है जो सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (कार्याविधि) नियम, 1982 में निहित है।
Attention in invited to the rules covering these and other related matter contended in the Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1982.

(6) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय प्राधिकरण (सीस्तेत) के प्रति अपीलों के मामलों में केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम, १९४४ की धारा ३५फ के अंतर्गत वित्तीय(संख्या-२) अधिनियम २०१४(२०१४ की संख्या २५) दिनांक: ०६.०८.२०१४ जो की वित्तीय अधिनियम, १९९४ की धारा ८३ के अंतर्गत सेवाकर को भी लागू की गई है, द्वारा निश्चित की गई पूर्व-राशि जमा करना अनिवार्य है, बशर्ते कि इस धारा के अंतर्गत जमा की जाने वाली अपेक्षित देय राशि दस करोड़ रूपए से अधिक न हो
केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर के अंतर्गत " माँग किए गए शुल्क " में निम्न शामिल है

(i) धारा 11 डी के अंतर्गत निर्धारित रकम
(ii) सेनवैट जमा की ली गई गलत राशि
(iii) सेनवैट जमा नियमावली के नियम 6 के अंतर्गत देय रकम

→ आगे बशर्ते यह कि इस धारा के प्रावधान वित्तीय (सं. 2) अधिनियम, 2014 के आरम्भ से पूर्व किसी अपीलीय प्राधिकारी के समक्ष विचाराधीन स्थगन अर्ज़ी एवं अपील को लागू नहीं होगे।

For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, it is mandatory to pre-deposit an amount specified under the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014 (No. 25 of 2014) dated 06.08.2014, under section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 which is also made applicable to Service Tax under section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994 provided the amount of pre-deposit payable would be subject to ceiling of Rs. Ten Crores,
Under Central Excise and Service Tax, "Duty demanded" shall include:

(i) amount determined under Section 11 D;
(ii) amount of erroneous Cenvat Credit taken;
(iii) amount payable under Rule 6 of the Cenvat Credit Rules.

**→Provided further that the provisions of this Section shall not apply to the stay application and appeals pending before any appellate authority prior to the commencement of the Finance (No.2) Act, 2014.**

(6)(i) इस आदेश के प्रति अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष जहाँ शुल्क अथवा शुल्क या दण्ड विवादित हो तो माँग किए गए शुल्क के 10% भुगतान पर और जहाँ केवल दण्ड विवादित हो तब दण्ड के 10% भुगतान पर की जा सकती है।

(6)(i) In view of above, an appeal against this order shall lie before the Tribunal on payment of 10% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute."

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क आयुक्तालय (अपील-I) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS-I) CENTRAL EXCISE AHMEDABAD अहमदाबाद

## ORDER-IN-APPEAL

M/s. Sun Transporters, 45, Umiya Shopping Centre, High way Road, Mehsana-384002, [*for short - 'appellant'*] has filed this appeal against OIO No. AHM-STX-003-ADC-AJS-31-16-17 dated 27.9.2016, passed by the Additional Commissioner, Central Excise, Ahmedabad-III Commissionerate [*for short – 'adjudicating authority'*].

2. Briefly stated the facts are that a show cause notice dated 23.4.2015 was issued demanding Service Tax of Rs. 6,64,195/-, short paid during the year 2013-14. The demand was raised after verifying the details shown by the appellant in their periodical ST-3 returns along with their Annual Profit and Loss Account and Sales Ledger during the said period. The appellant as per the returns was engaged in providing the services of "Supply of Tangible Goods Services" and "Mining of Mineral, Oil or Gas Service". Vide the aforementioned impugned OIO dated 27.9.2016, the adjudicating authority confirmed the demand along with interest and also imposed penalty on the appellant.

3. It is against this OIO that the appellant, feeling aggrieved, has filed this appeal on the grounds that:

(a)the appellant is engaged in transportation contract with ONGC; that as per the agreement the appellant is required to give certain specified number of tankers to ONGC; that the appellant had given 16 tankers on hire; that these tankers are supplied as per the specification and requirement of ONGC; that the driver of the vehicle must have two years driving experience on such vehicle; that the vehicle must have a cleaner and will be in total control of ONGC; that the tankers have to handle crude oil/brine/emulsion/mud/operational water etc from one place to another; that based on work performance report of tanker at the end of month the appellant prepares a single bill for the month;

(b)that the appellant is not covered under the category of supply of tangible goods service; that the service provided is classifiable under the category of GTA due to basic nature of providing transportation service;

(c) that since the service provided is GTA, M/s. ONGC is liable to pay service tax as per notification No. 35/2004 dated 3.12.2004;

(d) that they wish to rely on the case laws of Subhash Engineer and Contractor [2012(32) STR 45], GMMCO Limited [2012(31) STR 675], Payal Electric Decoration [2013(31) STR 590], Birla Ready Mix [2013(30) STR 99], Bharathi Soap Works [2008(9) STR 80]; MSPL Limited [2009(15) STR 461], Sandur Manganese & Iron Ores [2009(16) STR 740], Vinshree Coal Carriers Private Limited[2008(10) STR 473];

(d) that M/s. ONGC has discharged service tax on 25% of the gross bill amount; that the appellant has deposited service tax on 75% of bill amount; that since appellant and ONGC together have discharged the entire tax amount, the question of demanding service tax does not arise;

(e) that they are not liable to pay interest or penalty;

(f)that they have not suppressed any information from the department and there was no wilful misstatement on the part of the appellant.

4. Personal hearing in respect of the appeals was held on 17.5.2017, wherein Shri Vipul Khandhar, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the appellant. Shri Khandhar, reiterated the grounds of appeal and made additional written submissions, which are a summary of the grounds of appeal.

5. I have gone through the facts of the case, the grounds of appeal and the oral submissions made by the Chartered Accountant. The primary issue to be decided is whether the appellant is liable for payment of Service Tax confirmed or otherwise.

6. On going through the show cause notice, I find that the dispute is that there was a short payment of service tax which was detected on verifying the returns filed with the department to with their Financial Accounts. However, I find that the appellant in his submissions before the adjudicating authority stated that the service he was providing was not 'Supply of tangible goods service" but "Goods Transport Agency" and therefore, his contention was that he was not liable to pay service tax that was demanded in the show cause notice. This brought a new dimension to the dispute, which found no mention in the show cause notice. I find that the appellant has once again raised the same contention that his service is GTA and not supply of tangible goods. Before dwelling into the primary aspect of the appeal I would first like to discuss the classification issue. Surprisingly, it was not the department but the appellant himself who was classifying the service under supply of goods service.

7. Section 65 (105) (zzzzj) of the Finance Act, 1994 defines "Supply of Tangible Goods Services", as follows:

> *"Taxable service means" any service provided or to be provided to any person, by any other person in relation to supply of tangible goods including machinery, equipment and appliances for use, **without transferring right of possession** and **effective control** of such machinery, equipment and appliances."*

Section 65(105)(zzp) of the Act, *ibid*, defines taxable service under "Goods Transport Agency", as follows:

> *"taxable service means" any service provided or to be provided to any person, by a goods transport agency, in relation to transport of goods by road in a goods carriage;*

Section 65(50b) of the Finance Act, 1994 defines Goods Transport Agency Service, as follows:

> *"Goods Transport Agency" means any person who provides service in relation to transport of goods by road and issues consignment note, by whatever name called."*

8. To fall within the definition of taxable service of "*Supply of Tangible Goods*" referred to above, mainly two conditions are required to be satisfied - (i) there should be a supply of tangible goods for use; (ii) there should not be any transfer of right of possession and effective control of such goods. Once these two conditions are satisfied, the provisions of the said entry is attracted. On the other hand, to fall within Section 65(50b), which defines the "*Good Transport Agency*" and taxability on such service under clause of Section 65(105)(zzp) of the Act *ibid*, there should be a service in relation to transport of goods by road coupled with issue of consignment notes.

9. On going through the contract/agreement entered into by the appellant with M/s. ONGC, [refer para 12.5 of the impugned OIO], I observe that the appellant used to supply tankers to ONGC for use in inter-location transportation of various goods of ONGC, on the basis of monthly fixed charges under a contract/agreement. From the terms of the agreement as reproduced supra in the impugned OIO, it is clear that the service provided by the appellant is essentially supply of tankers along with personnel, to operate the same on charter hire basis for use by ONGC and the payment for the services rendered is made on monthly basis to the appellant. In the present case, the appellant has supplied tankers along with drivers and helpers. In the circumstances, it is the appellant, who has possession and effective control over the tankers, by virtue of appellant supplying the drivers and helpers with tankers. The drivers and helpers supplied are the employees of the appellant and not of ONGC. Hence, the contract clearly shows that there is no transfer of right of possession by the appellant to M/s. ONGC. The above contract also indicates the fact that the appellant is technically bound by ONGC, in terms of the compatibilities of tankers and the competence of the manpower engaged with such tankers, inasmuch as the appellant should provide specified number of tankers with competent driver and helpers with up to date vehicle documents and required equipments.

10. Vide Finance Bill, 2008, service provided in relation of "Supply of Tangible Goods", without transferring right of possession and effective control of the said tangible goods are specifically included in the list of taxable service. A brief description was given in para 4.4 of Board's letter D.O.F No.334/1/2008-TRU dated 29.02.2008 which reads as under:

> *"4.4.1 Transfer of the right to use any goods is leviable to sales tax / VAT as deemed sale of goods [Article 366(29A)(d) of the Constitution of India]. Transfer of right to use involves transfer of both possession and control of the goods to the user of the goods.*
>
> *4.4.2 Excavators, wheel loaders, dump trucks, crawler carriers, compaction equipment, cranes, etc., offshore construction vessels & barges, geo-technical vessels, tug and barge flotillas, rigs and high value machineries are supplied for use, with no legal right of possession and effective control. Transaction of allowing another person to use the goods, without giving legal right of possession and effective control, not being treated as sale of goods, is treated as service.*
>
> *4.4.3 Proposal is to levy service tax onsuch services provided in relation to supply of tangible goods, including machinery, equipment and appliances, for use, with no legal right of possession or effective control. Supply of tangible goods for use and leviable to VAT / sales tax as deemed sale of goods, is not covered under the scope of the proposed service. Whether a transaction involves transfer of possession and control is a question of facts and is to be decided based on the terms of the contract and other material facts. This could be ascertainable from the fact whether or not VAT is payable or paid."*

11. Payment of VAT on a transaction indicates that the said transaction is treated as sale, i.e. transfer of right to possess. In the instant case, ownership and control of the goods i.e. tankers remained with the appellant and only monthly hire charges were raised. Had there been transfer of possession, i.e. sale, then VAT would have been paid, which does not

appear to be the case. The activities of transportation of various goods were carried out by ONGC only. Thus, it is clear that the appellant was supplying goods i.e. tankers to ONGC. Hence, the service under consideration was covered within the ambit of "Supply of Tangible Goods" service, as elaborated under paras 4.4.1 to 4.4.3 of TRU letter dated 29.02.2008.

12. Further, the essence of the contract made between the appellant and ONGC is for 'supply' of tankers for transportation of goods by ONGC. who themselves are both the consignor and consignee of goods. The explanation regarding consignment note mentioned under Rule 4B of Service Tax Rules, 2004, is reproduced below for ease of reference:

> *'4B Issue of consignment note. - Any goods transport agency which provides service in relation to transport of goods by road in a goods carriage shall issue a consignment note to the customer:*
> *Provided that where any taxable service in relation to transport of goods by road in a goods carriage is wholly exempted under section 93 of the Act, the goods transport agency shall not be required to issue the consignment note.*
> *Explanation - For the purposes of this rule and the second proviso to rule 4A, "consignment note" means a document, issued by a goods transport agency against the receipt of goods for the purpose of transport of goods by road in a goods carriage, which is serially numbered, and contains the name of the consignor and consignee, registration number of the goods carriage in which the goods are transported, details of the goods transported, details of the place of origin and destination, person liable for paying service tax whether consignor, consignee or the goods transport agency.'*

13. As per the above definition, consignment note should be issued by a goods transport agency against the receipt of goods for the purpose of transport of goods by road in a goods carriage, which is serially numbered; and it should contain the name of the consignor and consignee, details of vehicle registration, goods transported, place of origin and destination and details regarding payment of service tax. Further, it has been made mandatory for every GTA to issue consignment note to the receiver of service under the said rule. Generally, when a person deposits the goods with any transporter for the purpose of transport to a given destination, the transporter issues the lorry receipt or consignment note to the person depositing the goods. The name of the consignee is mentioned on such note. The original copy of the lorry receipt is sent by the person depositing the goods i.e. consignor to the consignee to enable him to collect the goods from the transporter. In the instant case, the appellant has supplied tankers to ONGC and ONGC carried out the activities by using the said tanker as per their requirement of transporting goods owned by them. Therefore, in this case ONGC is both the consignor and consignee. Thus, the appellant only supplied tanker and manpower to ONGC in the capacity of a tanker owner and not in the capacity of a "Goods Transport Agency". Further, they did not issue any consignment note for the transportation of such goods. In fact, the appellant was only raising the bills on monthly basis for hire of tankers, owned by them for supply of tankers to ONGC for their specified usage.

14. Provisions about the classification of services are provided under Section 65A of the Finance Act. The said section is as under:-

> **65A. Classification of taxable services. -**
> *(1) For the purposes of this chapter, classification of taxable services shall be determined according to the terms of the sub-clauses (105) of Section 65;*
> *(2) When for any reason, a taxable service is prima facie, classifiable under two or more sub-clauses of clause (105) of Section 65, classification shall be effected as follows :-*
> *(a) the sub-clause which provides the most specific description shall be preferred to sub-clauses providing a more general description;*
> *(b) Composite services consisting of a combination of different services which cannot be classified in the manner specified in clause (a), shall be classified as if they consisted of a service which gives them their essential character, insofar as this criterion is applicable;*
> *(c) when a service cannot be classified in the manner specified in clause (a) or clause (b), it shall be classified under the sub-clause which occurs first among the sub-clauses which equally merits consideration;*

15. On going through the various services before the introduction of negative list concept (which has done away with positive list), it would be seen that there is no pattern or mutual exclusivity in the scope of various services. In Customs and Central Excise Tariff the classification of the goods is based on highly scientific pattern. In case of Service Tax, however, various services were brought into the tax net from 1994 onwards on *ad hoc* basis. There is no pattern in the order the services were brought under the tax net. Descriptions of the services are not mutually exclusive. Some of the services are very specific and precise while some are wide in scope. This is the reason that recourse needs to be taken to Section 65A for classifying particular services at a particular point of time. As per Section 65A of the Finance Act, if a service is classifiable under two or more sub-clauses of clause (105) of Section 65, *Classification shall be effected to the sub-clause which provides the most specific description to sub-clauses providing a more general description.* From the above definitions, I find that the activity under consideration is more specifically covered under the category "Supply of tangible goods service".

16. In the case of Commissioner of Central Excise, Agra V/s M/s Agra Computers, reported at 2014(34)STR 104 (Del-Tri), it has been held that Section 65A of Finance Act, 1994 provides guidance for determination of classification of taxable services for classification to be determined in terms of sub-clauses of Section *ibid.* Relevant para is as under:

> *"11. Section 65A was incorporated into the Act by the Finance Act, 2002 with effect from 14-5-2003, to provide guidance for determination of classification of taxable services. Clause (1) of this provision provides that classification of taxable services shall be determined according to the terms of the sub-clauses of Section 65(105). Clause (2) provides that if for any reason, a taxable service is, prima facie, classifiable under two or more sub-clauses of Section 65(105), classification shall be effected according to the norms set out in sub-clauses (a) to (c) of Section 65A. Sub-clause (a) provides that the sub-clause of Section 65(105) which provides the most specific description shall be preferred to sub-clauses providing a more general description. Sub-clause (b) states that composite services consisting of a combination of different services which cannot be classified in the manner*

*specified in clause (a), shall be classified as if consisting of a service which gives them their essential character, insofar as this criterion is applicable. Sub-clause (c) is in the nature a residual guidance for classification and is to be resorted to when a service cannot be classified in the manner specified in clauses (a) or (b), and provides that it should be classified under that sub-clause of Section 65(105) which occurs first among the sub-clauses which equally merit consideration."*

16.1. In another case, I find that the Hon'ble Tribunal, Bangalaore in the case of M/s SPL Developers (P) Ltd reported at [2015 (39) STR 455], held that "*The classification of a service must always be on analysis of the characteristics of the service, analyzed in terms of the provisions of the Act; considered in the light of the guidance provided in Section 65A of the Act; and identification of which of the clauses of Section 65(105), the service in issue falls into*". In the case of M/s Premier Prest Control (P) Ltd. reported at [2015(38) STR 870], the Hon'ble Tribunal held that classification of service is to be determined with respect to nature thereof vis-à-vis definitions of various services given in Section 65, read with Section 65A of Finance Act, 1994.

17. Further, the Hon'ble Tribunal, Mumbai in the case of M/s Greatship (I) Ltd reported at 2015 (37) STR 544 (Tri-Mumbai)] decided a similar issue, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal held that the activity of supply of drilling rig along with its personnel to operate the same on charter hire basis without transferring possession and active control comes within the ambit of "supply of tangible goods

The ratio of the above decisions is squarely applicable to the facts of the present case.

18. In view of the foregoing discussions, I agree with the adjudicating authority and hold that the activities carried out by the appellant correctly falls within the ambit of service category of "supply of tangible goods", as all the essential ingredients of the taxable service under the said category as defined under Section 65(105)(zzzzj) of the Finance Act, 1994 are fully satisfied.

19. The appellant has relied upon a bunch of case laws with regard to their claim for classification under GTA. Except for reproducing the head notes, the appellant has failed to point out how the case laws are applicable to the present dispute.

20. Since the classification stands decided, I now move on to the primary issue as to whether the appellant is liable for service tax which stands confirmed. The charge against the appellant is based on verification of details as shown in their ST-3 returns when compared to the financial records. The appellant has nowhere questioned the figures or the difference on which the service tax stands demanded. The appellant has put forth a very vague argument that since they have paid 75% of the service tax liability and M/s. ONGC

has paid 25% of the service tax there is no demand which needs to be confirmed since no service tax was short paid. The argument lacks merit, since during the disputed period, the liability of paying service tax was on the appellant and not on the service recipient. Hence, the amount paid by ONGC, if any, is not relevant. In the circumstances, the said argument is not tenable.

21. In view of the above discussion, the appellant is liable for payment of service tax short paid for the disputed period under the category of taxable service of "Supply of Tangible Goods". I further find that the appellant has not disputed the confirmation of the demand of Rs. 32,445/- short paid under the category of Mining of mineral oil or gas services. As duty was not discharged within stipulated time, interest is payable under section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994.

22. The appellant has further contended that they are not liable for penalty under section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 on the grounds that there was no suppression on their part. The argument fails on fact. The appellant did not report the correct figures in his return which resulted in the short payment when the figures reported in the returns were compared with the financial records maintained by the appellant. In view of the facts, I find that this is a fit case for imposition of penalty under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 since there was clear cut suppression on the part of the appellant.

23. In view of the foregoing I reject the appeal filed by the appellant and uphold the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority.

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

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

(उमा शंकर)
आयुक्त (अपील्स - I)

Date 07.08.2017

Attested

(Vinod Lukose)
Superintendent (Appeal-I),
Central Excise,
Ahmedabad.

By RPAD.

To,

M/s. Sun Transporters,
45, Umiya Shopping Centre,
High way Road,
Mehsana- 384002

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Commissioner, Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone .
2. The Commissioner, Central Excise, Ahmedabad-III.
3. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, Service Tax Division, Gnadhinagar, Ahmedabad-III.
4. The Additional Commissioner, System, Central Excise, Ahmedabad-III.
5. Guard File.
6. P.A.

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क आयुक्तालय (अपील-I) OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS) I CENTRAL EXCISE AHMEDABAD