

 केंद्रीय कर आयुक्त (अपील)	
O/O THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS), CENTRAL TAX, केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क भवन सातवीं मंजिल, पॉलिटेक्निक के पास आम्बावाडी, अहमदाबाद-380015	7 th Floor, Central Excise Building, Near Polytechnic, Ambavadi, Ahmedabad-380015
फोन : 079-26305065	टेलीफैक्स : 079-26305136

रजिस्टर डाक ए.डी.द्वारा

क फाइल संख्या (File No.): V2(STC)20 /North/Appeals/ 2017-18

ख अपील आदेश संख्या (Order-In-Appeal No.): **AHM-EXCUS-002-APP-347-17-18**

दिनांक (Date): **28-Feb-2018** जारी करने की तारीख (Date of issue):

श्री उमा शंकर, आयुक्त (अपील-II) द्वारा पारित

Passed by **Shri Uma Shanker**, Commissioner (Appeals)

ग _____ आयुक्त, केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, (मंडल-III), अहमदाबाद उत्तर, आयुक्तालय द्वारा जारी
 मूल आदेश सं _____ दिनांक _____ से सृजित

Arising out of Order-In-Original No **STC/Ref/32/Karnavati/K.M. Mohadikar/AC/Div-III/17-18** Dated: **18/05/2017**

issued by: Assistant Commissioner Central Excise (Div-III), Ahmedabad North

घ अपीलकर्ता/प्रतिवादी का नाम एवम पता (Name & Address of the Appellant/Respondent)

M/s Karnavati Club Ltd

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 an 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:

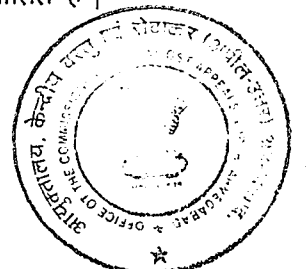
(1) (क) (i) केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम 1994 की धरा अतत नीचे बताए गए मामलों के बारे में पूर्वोक्त धारा को उप-धारा के प्रथम परंतुक के अंतर्गत पुनरीक्षण आवेदन अधीन सचिव, भारत सरकार, वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग, चौथी मंजिल, जीवन दीप भवन, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001 को की जानी चाहिए।

A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Government of India, Revision Application Unit, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001, 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 हानि कारखाने से किसी भंडारगार या अन्य कारखाने में या किसी भंडारगार से दूसरे भंडारगार में माल ले जाते हुए मार्ग में, या किसी भंडारगार या भंडार में चाहे वह किसी कारखाने में या किसी भंडारगार में हो माल की प्रकिया के दौरान हुई हो।

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 मामले में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।



Cont...2

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

अंतिम उत्पादन की उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए जो ड्यूटी क्रेडिट 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 दिनांक 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 रुपये या उससे कम हो तो रुपये 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 अपील:-
Appeal to Custom, Excise, & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal.

- (1) केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35-बी/35-इ के अंतर्गत:-

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

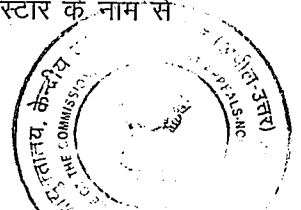
- (क) वर्गीकरण मूल्यांकन से संबंधित सभी मामले सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की विशेष पीठिका वेस्ट ब्लॉक नं. 3. आर. के. पुरम, नई दिल्ली को एवं

- (a) the special bench of Custom, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal of West Block No.2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-1 in all matters relating to classification valuation and.

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

- (b) 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 इए-3 में निर्धारित किए अनुसार अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरणों की गई अपील के विरुद्ध 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



रेखांकित बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में संबंध की जाये। यह ड्राफ्ट उस स्थान के किसी नामित सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक की शाखा का हो जहाँ उक्त न्यायाधिकरण की पीठ स्थित है।

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. Registrar 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 आदेश के लिए फीस का भुगतान उपर्युक्त ढंग से किया जाना चाहिए इस तथ्य के होते हुए भी कि लिखा पढी कार्य से बचने के लिए यथास्थिति अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को एक अपील या केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक आवेदन किया जाता है।

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 notwithstanding 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 रु.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 a court fee stamp of Rs.6.50 paise 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 is 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 उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट), के प्रति अपील के मामले में कर्तव्य मांग (Demand) एवं दंड (Penalty) का 10% पूर्व जमा करना अनिवार्य है। हालांकि, अधिकतम पूर्व जमा 10 करोड़ रुपए है। (Section 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994)

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क और सेवा कर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा "कर्तव्य की मांग"(Duty Demanded) -

- (i) (Section) खंड 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (ii) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
- (iii) सेनवैट क्रेडिट नियमों के नियम 6 के तहत देय राशि.

⇒ यह पूर्व जमा 'लंबित अपील' में पहले पूर्व जमा की तुलना में, अपील दाखिल करने के लिए पूर्व शर्त बना दिया गया है।

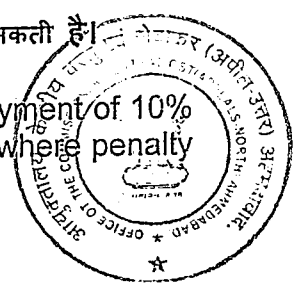
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT. (Section 35 C (2A) and 35 F of the Central Excise Act, 1944, Section 83 & Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994)

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.

इस सन्दर्भ में 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।

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."



ORDER IN APPEAL

The subject appeal is filed by M/s. Karnavati Club Ltd., S. G. Highway, Ahmedabad (hereinafter referred to as 'the appellant') against Order in Original No. STC/Ref/32/Karnavati/Kmmohadikar/AC/Div-III/17-18 (hereinafter referred to as 'the impugned order') passed by the Asstt. Commissioner, Service Tax, Division-III, Ahmedabad (hereinafter referred to as 'the adjudicating authority').

2. The facts of the case in brief are that, the appellant are holding Service Tax registration number AAACK7865QST001 under the category of Membership Club or Association Service, Health Club and Fitness Services etc. the appellant had filed refund claim on dated 06.02.2017 for the service tax paid Rs.67784564/-, during the period 01.4.2016 to 30.09.2016. SCN was issued on dt.9-2-17. The adjudicating authority vide the impugned order rejected said refund claim.

3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order the appellant has filed the instant appeal, on the following main grounds;

- i. that the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority is not legal and not proper.
- ii. That the appellant being members' association has been formed to provide sports activities performed exclusively for the members. The appellant provides sports and health services to the members as a social responsibility' for the members of the club and hence the appellant is working on mutuality principal. That if the activity is undertaken by the association for and on behalf of the members, it cannot be stated that the association provided the services to its members.
- iii. that for being chargeable to tax under the provision of service tax, it is essential that the person concerned should render service to another person. In the present case, the appellant being members' association provide sports activities to its members only which would be in the nature of "self- service" and consequently, would not attract service tax. In the absence of there being any service provider and service recipient in relation to the transaction in question, the taxability in the present case is not justifiable.
- iv. The association does not have any independent existence or identity of its own. The association acts as a social responsibility towards their members. There is no other party rendering any service to the members. As such, it cannot be said that appellant is rendering any service to its members.

v. the appellant have claimed that they are incorporated as company and not an unincorporated association. In support of their claim, the appellant have submitted a copy of the 'Memorandum and Articles of Association.

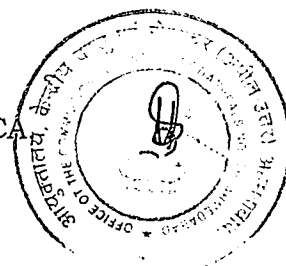
vi. They relied on the following citations;

(2010) 20 S.T.R. 17 (Guj.) Sports Club Of Gujarat Ltd.

2013 (31) S.T.R. 645 (Guj.) Sports Club Of Gujarat Ltd.

2015(38)STR407(TRI.Mum) Matunga Gymkhana.

OIA No.Ahm—Svtax-000-Appp-141/15-16 Dtd. 10-2-16 in case of YMCA



4. Personal hearing in this case was granted on 23.1.2018; Shri Vipul Khandhar,CA, appeared on behalf of the appellant. He reiterated submissions made in their GOA . I have carefully gone through the facts of the case on records, grounds of appeal in the Appeal Memorandum, and the case laws cited by the appellant. The issue to decide is whether the refund claim is admissible or not.

5. I find that the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat vide its judgment dated 25.03.2013 allowed the petition of the appellant declaring Section 65(25A), Section 65(105)(zzze) and Section 66 of the Finance Act, 1994 as amended by the Finance Act, 2005 to the extent providing levy of Service Tax in respect of the services provided by the club to its members as *ultra virus*, i.e. beyond the powers and therefore, not legal, upholding the principle of mutuality. I find that the case dealt by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat was for the period prior to 01.07.2012. I find that the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat, in its judgment dated 25.03.2013, has not taken into consideration the amendments made in the Act (w.e.f. 01.07.2012). I find that, In the new system, the word 'service' has been defined under Section 65B(44) of the Finance Act, 1994 which is printed as below;

"(44) 'service' means any activity carried out by a person for another for consideration, and includes a declared service, but shall not include;

(a) an activity which constitutes merely

(i) a transfer of title in goods or immovable property, by way of sale, gift or in any other manner; or

(ia) such transfer, delivery or supply of any goods which is deemed to be a sale within the meaning of clause (29A) of article 366 of the Constitution; or

(ii) a transaction in money or actionable claim;

(b) a provision of service by an employee to the employer in the course of or in relation to his employment;

© fees taken in any court or tribunal established under any law for the time being in force.

Explanation 1 for removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that nothing contained in this clause shall apply to;

A. The functions performed by the Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislative, Members of Panchayats, Members of Municipalities and Members of other local authorities who receive any consideration in performing the functions of that office as such member; or

B. the duties performed by any person who holds any post in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution in that capacity; or

c. the duties performed by any person as a Chairperson or a Member or a Director in a body established by the Central Government or State Governments or local authority and who is not deemed as an employee before the commencement of this section.

Explanation 2— this clause, the expression "transaction in money or actionable claim" shall not include—



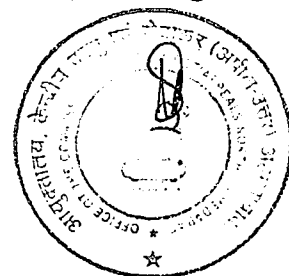
- 5 -
- i. Any activity relating to use of money or its conversion by cash or by any other mode, from one form, currency or denomination, to another form, currency or denomination for which a separate consideration is charged;
 - ii. Any activity carried out, for consideration, about, or for facilitation of, a transaction in money or actionable claim, including the activity carried out—
 - By a lottery distributor or selling agent on behalf of the State Government, about promotion, marketing, organising, selling of lottery or facilitating in the organising lottery of any kind, in any other manner, by the provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 (17 of 1998);
 - by a foreman of chit fund for conducting or organising a chit in any manner.

Explanation 3. - For the purpose of this chapter, -

- a. An unincorporated association or a body of persons, as the case may be, and a member thereof shall be treated as distinct persons;
- b. An establishment of a person in the taxable territory and any of his other establishment in a non-taxable territory shall be treated as establishments of distinct persons".

6. In view of the above, I find that, it is apparent that unincorporated association or a body of persons and a member are to be treated as distinct entity. In the instant case, in their submission, the appellant have claimed that they are incorporated as company and not an unincorporated association. In support of their claim, the appellant have submitted a copy of the 'Memorandum and Articles of Association. I find that the appellants are incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (No. 1 of 1956) and their Certification of Incorporation number is 04-12-12192 of 1989-90. Thus, in view of the above, it is clear that the appellant are an entity and the principles of mutuality are very much applicable to them.

7. Further, I find that, in the case of Sports Club of Gujarat, the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court held the taxability of services by club to its members is *ultra vires*. It relied on the decision of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Saturday Club Ltd., wherein it was held that in a members club, any transaction between the club and its members cannot be regarded as service. However, under the Finance Act, the explanation to Section 65B (44) provides a deeming fiction that an unincorporated association or a body of persons ("BOP"), as the case may be, and a member thereof shall be treated as distinct persons and since the concept of mutuality has been done away with the deeming fiction, collections from members become liable for Service Tax if they are in the nature of any activity carried out by society for its members. But, the point to be noticed here is that the explanation inserted uses the words unincorporated enterprise only. Thus, as per the discussion held above, I am of the view that in the cases where the claimants are an incorporated body, they are eligible for the refund as they are not liable for Service Tax.



8. In view of the above, I hold that as the appellant have wrongly paid said Service Tax against 'Club or Associated Services' during the relevant period ,hence, refund is admissible to the appellant.

9. In view of above discussion and findings, I set aside the impugned order and allow the appeal filed by the appellant.

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

The appeals filed by the appellant stand disposed off in above terms.

उमा शंकर

(उमा शंकर)

आयुक्त (अपील्स)

Date- /02/18

Attested

K.K.Parmar

(K.K.Parmar)

Superintendent (Appeals)
Central tax, Ahmedabad.

By Regd. Post A. D

M/S. Karnavati Club Ltd.,
S. G. Highway,
Ahmedabad-380058.

Copy to-

1. The Chief Commissioner, CGST Central Excise, Ahmedabad zone.
2. The Commissioner, CGST Central Excise, Ahmedabad- North.
3. The Asstt. Commissioner, CGST C.Ex. Div-VI, Ahmedabad- North.
4. The Asstt.Commissioner (Systems), CGST C.Ex. Ahmedabad-North.
- ~~5. Guard file.~~
6. PA File.

