



सत्यमेव जयते

आयुक्त का कार्यालय
Office of the Commissioner
केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील अहमदाबाद आयुक्तालय
Central GST, Appeals Ahmedabad Commissionerate
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By SPEED POST

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(क)	फ़ाइल संख्या / File No.	GAPPL/COM/STP/4400/2023 / 7811 - 7815
(ख)	अपील आदेश संख्या और दिनांक / Order-In -Appeal and date	AHM-EXCUS-002-APP-247/23-24 and 19.02.2024
(ग)	पारित किया गया / Passed By	श्री ज्ञानचंद जैन, आयुक्त (अपील) Shri Gyan Chand Jain, Commissioner (Appeals)
(घ)	जारी करने की दिनांक / Date of Issue	05.03.2024
(ङ)	Arising out of Order-In-Original No. CGST/WT07/HG/985/2022-23 dated 27.3.2023 passed by The Assistant Commissioner, CGST Division-VII, Ahmedabad North	
(च)	अपीलकर्ता का नाम और पता / Name and Address of the Appellant	Swar Recording Studio Prop. Amit Vinodchandra Vaishnav, E-102, Anurag Residency Near Madhav Mandir, Memnagaring Ahmedabad - 380052

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील-आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील अथवा पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है, जैसा कि ऐसे आदेश के विरुद्ध हो 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 अतत नीचे बताए गए मामलों के बारे में पूर्वोक्त धारा को उप-धारा के प्रथम परन्तुक 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 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 :-

(क) यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानिकार खाने 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 प्रक्रिया 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 मामलों में जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या प्रदेश में निर्यातित है।

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।

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

(घ) 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।

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.

(2) 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 भीतरमूल-आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो-दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ का मुख्य शीर्ष 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.

(3) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये या उससे कम होतो रुपये 200/- फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्नरकम 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 सेवा कर 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 :-

(2) उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद 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 2nd माला, बहुमाली भवन, असरवा, गिरधरनागर, अहमदाबाद-380004।

To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at 2nd floor, Bahumali Bhawan, Asarwa, Girdhar Nagar, Ahmedabad: 380004. In case of appeals other than as mentioned above para.

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 अनुसूची -1 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए अनुसार उक्त आवेदन या मूलआदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रतिपर 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 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) एके प्रति अपील के मामले में कर्तव्यमांग (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 सेवाकर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा कर्तव्य की मांग (Duty Demanded)|

- (31) खंड (Section) 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (32) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
- (33) 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।

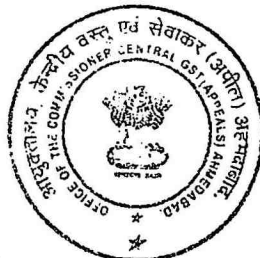
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT. (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:

- (xxxii) amount determined under Section 11 D;
- (xxxiii) amount of erroneous Cenvat Credit taken;
- (xxxiiii) amount payable under Rule 6 of the Cenvat Credit Rules.

(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।

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."



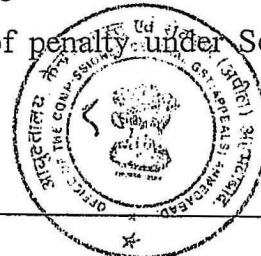
अपीलियआदेश / ORDER-IN-APPEAL

The present appeal has been filed by M/s Swar Recording Studio, Prop- Amit Vinodchandra Vaishnav, E-102, Anurag Residency, Nr. Manav Mandir, Memnagar, Ahmedabad – 380052 {address mentioned in OIO – B-13, Nandanbag Shopping Centre, Bhimjipura, Vadaj, Ahmedabad – 380027} (hereinafter referred to as '*the appellant*') against Order in Original No. CGST/WT07/HG/985/2022-23 dated 27.03.2023 [hereinafter referred to as '*impugned order*'] passed by the Assistant Commissioner, CGST & CEx, Division-VII, Ahmedabad North Commissionerate [hereinafter referred to as '*adjudicating authority*'].

2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant were holding Service Tax Registration No. AASPV6526EST001 and engaged in the business of providing taxable services. As per the information received from the Income Tax department discrepancies were observed in the total income declared by the appellant in their Income Tax Return (ITR) when compared with Service Tax Returns (ST-3) filed by them for the period F.Y. 2015-16. Accordingly, in order to verify, letter dated 07.10.2020 was issued to the appellant calling for the details of services provided during the period. The appellant did not submit any reply. Further, the jurisdictional officer considering the services provided by the appellant as taxable determined the Service Tax liability for the F.Y. 2015-16 on the basis of differential value of 'Sales of Services' under Sales/Gross Receipts from Services (Value from ITR) or "Total amount paid/credited under Section 194C, 194I, 194H & 194J of Income Tax Act, 1961" shown in the ITR and Taxable Value shown in ST-3 return for the relevant period as per details below :

Sr. No.	Period (F.Y.)	Differential Taxable Value as per Income Tax Data (in Rs.)	Rate of Service Tax incl. Cess	Service Tax liability to be demanded (in Rs.)
1.	2015-16	14,78,500/-	14.5%	2,14,383/-

3. The appellant was issued Show Cause Notice No. CGST/AR-IV/Div-VII/A'BAD-NORTH/TPD-Regd./112/20-21 dated 23.12.2020 (in short SCN) proposing to demand and recover Service Tax amounting to Rs.2,14,383/- under proviso to Section 73 of Finance Act, 1994 along with interest under Section 75 of the Act. The SCN also proposed imposition of penalty under Section 77(1)(c),



Section 77(2) and Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994. It was also proposed that Service Tax liability not paid during the F.Y. 2016-17 to 2017-18 (upto June 2017), ascertained in future due to non-availability of pertaining data.

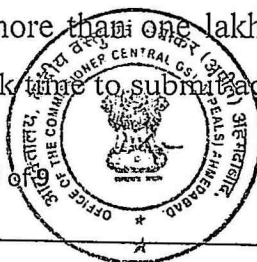
4. The SCN was adjudicated *ex-parte* vide the impugned order wherein :

- Service Tax demand of Rs.2,14,383/- was confirmed under Section 73(1) of the Finance Act, 1994 along with interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994.
- Penalty of Rs.1,000/- was imposed under Section 77(1)(a) & Section 77(1)(c) of the Finance Act, 1994.
- Penalty of Rs.1,000/- was imposed under Section 77(2) of the Finance Act, 1994.
- Penalty of Rs.2,14,383/- was imposed under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 with option for reduced penalty in terms of clause (ii).

5. Aggrieved by the impugned order, the appellant has preferred this appeal on following grounds:

- The appellant is doing business of music live shows, garba program and recordings as an artist for garba and other folk songs and have earned Rs.14,78,500/- (Recording Income – Rs.8,74,500/- & Live Singing Income – Rs.6,04,500/-) during the F.Y. 2015-16.
- They submitted that their singing income of Rs.6,04,500/- as an artist by way of performance in folk or classical art forms of (i) music, or (ii) dance, or (iii) theatre, (if the consideration charged for such performance is not more than one lakh) is exempted under under Sr. No. 16 of notification 25/2012 and the Recording Income – Rs.8,74,500/- is below the 10 Lacs, hence, not taxable under service tax.

6. Personal Hearing in the case was held on 12.01.2024. Shri Dinesh A. Rathi (Advocate) and shri Amit Vaishnav (the appellant), appeared for personal hearing. They do music live shows, program and recordings as artist for garba and other folk songs. The same is exempted under Sr. No. 16 of notification 25/2012. In no case, they have received the charge of more than one lakh rupees in individual event. Further, they requested for one week time to submit additional documents.



6.1 Subsequently, the appellant submitted sample invoices for studio recording and live singing music and P&L A/c, Balance Sheet, ITR for the previous financial year.

7. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, submissions made in the Appeal Memorandum, oral submissions made during personal hearing and the facts available on records. The issue before me for decision in the present appeal is whether the demand for Service Tax amounting to Rs.2,14,383/- confirmed along with interest and penalties vide the impugned order in the facts and circumstances of the case, is legal and proper or otherwise. The demand pertains to the period F.Y. 2015-16.

8. I find that the appellant was registered with service tax department, however the SCN was issued merely on the income tax data without any verification and it has been recorded at Para 17 of the impugned order that the opportunity of personal hearing was granted, but the appellant had neither filed defense submission nor availed of the opportunity of personal hearing. Thereafter, the case was adjudicated *ex-parte* by the adjudicating authority.

9. Upon verification of the documents submitted by the appellant, I find that the appellant is a singer and engaged in the activity of live music program/show for garba & dandiya in various occasions and recording song in studio. They have earned Rs.14,78,500/- (Rs.8,74,500/- from Recording Song in Studio + Rs.6,04,500/- from Live Singing show/program) during the F.Y. 2015-16. They have claimed that their income from live signing show merits exemption in terms of mega exemption Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20.06.2012 and the income from recording song in studio remains below to the threshold exemption limit of Rs.10 Lakhs in terms of Notification No.33/2012-ST. In support of their claim, they submitted sample copies of invoice, sales ledger, P&L A/c, Balance Sheet, ITR, Form 26AS for the F.Y. 2014-15 & F.Y. 2015-16.

9.1 As contended by the appellant, I also find that the income of Rs.6,04,500/- received from Live Singing show/program is exempted from Service Tax in terms of mega exemption Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20.06.2012. Relevant portion of the said notification is reproduced below :

....



16. Services by a performing artist in folk or classical art forms of (i) music, or (ii) dance, or (iii) theatre, excluding services provided by such artist as a brand ambassador;

.....

9.2 Now the issue to be decided in the case is grant of benefit of threshold exemption to the appellant in terms of Notification No. 33/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 for the remaining income of Rs.8,74,500/- received from recording song in studio. In this matter, I find that the benefit of threshold exemption is available to the appellant since the total taxable value of service provided during the Financial Year 2014-15 was Rs.8,13,550/- which remained below to the threshold exemption limit. The relevant portion of the notification is reproduced below :

*Government of India
Ministry of Finance
(Department of Revenue)
Notification No. 33/2012 - Service Tax*

New Delhi, the 20th June, 2012

G.S.R. (E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 93 of the Finance Act, 1994 (32 of 1994) (hereinafter referred to as the said Finance Act), and in supersession of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) notification No. 6/2005-Service Tax, dated the 1 st March, 2005, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i), vide G.S.R. number 140(E), dated the 1 st March, 2005, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts taxable services of aggregate value not exceeding ten lakh rupees in any financial year from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon under section 66B of the said Finance Act:

Provided that nothing contained in this notification shall apply to,-

(i) taxable services provided by a person under a brand name or trade name, whether registered or not, of another person; or

(ii) such value of taxable services in respect of which service tax shall be paid by such person and in such manner as specified under sub-section (2) of section 68 of the said Finance Act read with Service Tax Rules, 1994.

2. The exemption contained in this notification shall apply subject to the following conditions, namely:-

(i) the provider of taxable service has the option not to avail the exemption contained in this notification and pay service tax on the taxable services provided by him and such option, once exercised in a financial year, shall not be withdrawn during the remaining part of such financial year;

(ii) the provider of taxable service shall not avail the CENVAT credit of service tax paid on any input services, under rule 3 or rule 13 of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004 (herein after referred to as the said rules), used for providing the said taxable service, for which exemption from payment of service tax under this notification is availed of;

(iii) the provider of taxable service shall not avail the CENVAT credit under rule 3 of the said rules, on capital goods received, during the period in which the service provider avails exemption from payment of service tax under this notification;

(iv) the provider of taxable service shall avail the CENVAT credit only on such inputs or input services received, on or after the date on which the service provider starts paying service tax, and used for the provision of taxable services for which service tax is payable;

(v) the provider of taxable service who starts availing exemption under this notification shall be required to pay an amount equivalent to the CENVAT credit taken by him, if any, in respect of such inputs lying in stock or in process on the date on which the provider of taxable service starts availing exemption under this notification;

(vi) the balance of CENVAT credit lying unutilised in the account of the taxable service provider after deducting the amount referred to in sub-paragraph

(v), if any, shall not be utilised in terms of provision under sub-rule (4) of rule 3 of the said rules and shall lapse on the day such service provider starts availing the exemption under this notification;



(vii) where a taxable service provider provides one or more taxable services from one or more premises, the exemption under this notification shall apply to the aggregate value of all such taxable services and from all such premises and not separately for each premises or each services; and
(viii) the aggregate value of taxable services rendered by a provider of taxable service from one or more premises, does not exceed ten lakh rupees in the preceding financial year.

...
(B) "aggregate value" means the sum total of value of taxable services charged in the first consecutive invoices issued during a financial year but does not include value charged in invoices issued towards such services which are exempt from whole of service tax leviable thereon under section 66B of the said Finance Act under any other notification."
...

Examining the above legal provisions with the facts of the case, I find that the appellants are eligible for the benefit of the exemption on the income received from recording song in studio by virtue of the above provision.

10. In view of the above findings and discussions, I hold that the appellant is eligible for exemption from Service Tax and the demand of Service Tax amounting to Rs.2,14,383/- confirmed vide impugned order is not sustainable legally and is liable to be set aside. As the demand of Service Tax is unsustainable, the question of interest and penalty does not arise.

11. Accordingly, the impugned order is set aside and the appeal filed by the appellant is allowed.

12. अपील कर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।
The appeal filed by the appellant stands disposed of in above terms.



ज्ञानचंद जैन

आयुक्त (अपील्स)

Dated: 19th February, 2024

सत्यापित/Attested :



मनीष कुमार

अधीक्षक (अपील्स)

सी जी एस टी, अहमदाबाद

By REGD/SPEED POST A/D

To,

M/s Swar Recording Studio,
Prop- Amit Vinodchandra Vaishnav,
E-102, Anurag Residency,
Nr. Manav Mandir, Memnagar,
Ahmedabad – 380052.



Copy to :

1. The Principal Chief Commissioner, CGST and Central Excise, Ahmedabad.
2. The Commissioner, CGST and Central Excise, Ahmedabad North.
3. The Assistant Commissioner, CGST & CEX, Division - VII, Ahmedabad North Commissionerate.
4. The Superintendent (Systems), CGST, Appeals, Ahmedabad, for publication of OIA on website.
5. Guard file.
6. PA File.



