



सत्यमेव जयते

**आयुक्त (अपील) का कार्यालय,**  
**Office of the Commissioner (Appeal),**  
 केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील आयुक्तालय, अहमदाबाद  
**Central GST, Appeal Commissionerate, Ahmedabad**  
 जीएसटी भवन, राजस्व मार्ग, अम्बावाड़ी अहमदाबाद ३८००१५.  
 CGST Bhavan, Revenue Marg, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380015  
 07926305065- टेलिफैक्स 07926305136



DIN: 20230564SW000000E123

## स्पीड पोस्ट

- क फाइल संख्या : File No : GAPPL/COM/STP/105/2023-APPEAL / 1380-8H
- ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal Nos. AHM-EXCUS-002-APP-025/2023-24  
 दिनांक Date : 15-05-2023 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue 17.05.2023  
 आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित  
 Passed by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Commissioner (Appeals)
- ग Arising out of Order-in-Original No. 13/AC/Dem/NA/2022-23 दिनांक: 31.10.2022, issued by Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-V, Ahmedabad-North
- घ अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address

### 1. Appellant

M/s Joravarsinh Dhirubhai Vaja,  
 7, Krishnabaug Society,  
 B/h Hero Honda Show Room,  
 Bhavnagar Road, Dhandhuka,  
 Dist: Ahmedabad-382460

### 2. Respondent

The Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-V, Ahmedabad  
 North, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sahjanand Arcade, Nr. Helmet Circle, Memnagar,  
 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 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 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।

(i) A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Govt. of India, Revision Application Unit Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 :

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 प्रक्रिया 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



(क) 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।

(A) 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.

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

(B) 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।

(c) 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) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> माला, बहुमाली भवन, असरवा, गिरधरनागर, अहमदाबाद -380004

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



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 पढ़ी 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 Appellate 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 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.

- (7) 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, 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:

- (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 आदेश के प्रति अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष जहाँ शुल्क अथवा शुल्क या दण्ड विवादित हो तो माँग किए गए शुल्क 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."



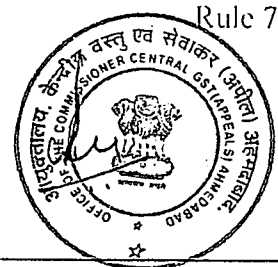
**ORDER-IN-APPEAL**

The present appeal has been filed by M/s. Joravarsinh Dhirubhai Vaja, 7, Krishnabaug Society, B/h. Hero Honda Show Room, Bhavnagar Road, Dhandhuka, Dist: Ahmedabad – 382460 (hereinafter referred to as “the appellant”) against Order-in-Original No. 13/AC/Dem/NA/2022-23 dated 31.10.2022 (hereinafter referred to as “the impugned order”) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central GST, Division V, Ahmedabad North (hereinafter referred to as “the adjudicating authority”).

2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant are holding PAN No. ABBPV1453G. On scrutiny of the data received from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for the Financial Year 2016-17, it was noticed that the appellant had earned an income of Rs. 2,10,12,456/- during the FY 2016-17, which was reflected under the heads “Sales / Gross Receipts from Services (Value from ITR)” or “Total amount paid / credited under Section 194C, 194I, 194H, 194J (Value from Form 26AS)” filed with the Income Tax department. Accordingly, it appeared that the appellant had earned the said substantial income by way of providing taxable services but had neither obtained Service Tax Registration nor paid the applicable service tax thereon. The appellant were called upon to submit copies of Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Account, Income Tax Return, Form 26AS, for the said period. However, the appellant had not responded to the letters issued by the department.

2.1 Subsequently, the appellant were issued Show Cause Notice No. V/32/Joravarsinh Dhirubhai Vaja/Div-V/2021 dated 04.10.2021 demanding Service Tax amounting to Rs. 31,51,868/- for the period FY 2016-17, under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994. The SCN also proposed recovery of interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994; recovery of late fees under Rule 7C of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 read with Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994; and imposition of penalties under Section 77(1) and Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994.

2.2 The Show Cause Notice was adjudicated ex-parte vide the impugned order by the adjudicating authority wherein the demand of Service Tax amounting to Rs. 31,51,868/- was confirmed under proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 73 of the Finance Act, 1994 along with Interest under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 for the period from FY 2014-15. Further (i) Penalty of Rs. 31,51,868/- was also imposed on the appellant under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994; (ii) Penalty of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on the appellant under Section 77(1)(a) of the Finance Act, 1994 for failure to taking Service Tax Registration; and (iii) ordered for recovery of late fees for non filing of ST-3 Returns for the relevant period under Rule 7C of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 read with Section 70(1) of the Finance Act, 1994.



3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order issued by the adjudicating authority, the appellants have preferred the present appeal on the following grounds:

- The appellant are a proprietorship firm engaged in the business of providing works contract services such as canal work, drainage work, irrigation work, etc. Entire business of the appellant is related to government works contract. The work orders for such projects are issued by Government' companies. The appellant also submitted various work orders.
- The SCN dated 04.10.2021 was served on the appellant on 02.11.2022 i.e. after the issuance of the impugned order dated 31.10.2022. The impugned order is clearly in violation of the settled legal position. The appellant was never given an opportunity of being heard before adjudicating the demand.
- The adjudicating authority has passed the impugned order in disregard of the CBEC Circular No. 116/10/2009-ST dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 since the appellant is engaged into the business of providing works contracts services in relation to government infrastructure projects such as canal work, irrigation work, etc and the said circular itself clarifies that such activities are not chargeable to service tax. Further, their services are exempt under Entry Nos. 12, 12A and 13 of the Mega Exemption Notification.
- The adjudicating authority has not given proper reasons for invoking the extended period of limitation by merely alleging the suppression and willful evasion of tax by the appellant. In fact, the adjudicating authority has passed the impugned order based on the information shared by the income tax department, which suggests that it is the appellant himself who has correctly disclosed all the material facts and paid correct taxes, based on which such information is shared by the income tax department.

4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 18.04.2023. Shri Utkarsh Desai, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the appellant for personal hearing. He reiterated submission made in appeal memorandum.

4.1 The appellant have vide letter dated 28.04.2023 submitted copies of Invoices, copies of work order, Income Ledger and Profit & Loss Account for the FY 2016-17 as additional submission.



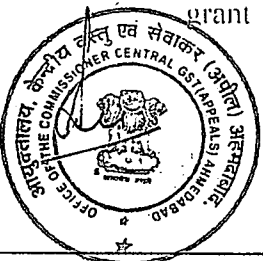
5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, grounds of appeal, submissions made in the Appeal Memorandum and documents available on record. The issue to be decided in the present appeal is whether the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority, confirming the demand of Service Tax against the appellant along with interest and penalty, in the facts and circumstance of the case, is legal and proper or otherwise. The demand pertains to the period FY 2016-17.

6. It is observed that the main contentions of the appellant are that (i) the SCN dated 04.10.2021 was served on the appellant on 02.11.2022 i.e. after the issuance of the impugned order dated 31.10.2022; (ii) they have not received any notice for personal hearing; and (iii) they are engaged in the business of providing works contract services such as canal work, drainage work, irrigation work, etc., which was exempted from service tax.

7. In this regard, to verify the contention of the appellant that they have not received SCN, this office made correspondence with the jurisdictional Assistant Commissioner. The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-V, Ahmedabad has vide letter F.No. V/32/Joravarsinh D. Vaja/Div.V/2021 dated 01.05.2023 informed that the show cause notice dated 04.10.2021 issued to the appellant was served on 12.10.2021 through registered letter and also submitted the copy of consignment tracking details of Postal Department showing status as 'Item Delivery Confirmed'. Thus, the contention of the appellant that they have not received show cause notice before issuance of impugned order is not tenable.

8. As regard, the contention of the appellant that the impugned order was issued without conducting personal hearing, it is observed that the adjudicating authority has scheduled personal hearing on three different dates i.e. 29.06.2022, 20.09.2022 and 27.09.2022. The appellant contended that they have not received any personal hearing letter and therefore could not attend the personal hearing.

8.1 In this regard, I find that as per Section 33A(2) of the Central Excise Act, 1944, as made applicable to Service Tax vide Section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994, when a personal hearing is fixed, it is open to a party to seek time by showing sufficient cause and in such case, the adjudicating authority may grant time and adjourn the personal hearing by recording the reason in writing. Not more than three such adjournments can be granted. Since such adjournments are limited to three, the hearing would be required to be fixed on each such occasion and on every occasion when time is sought and sufficient cause is made out, the case would be adjourned to another date. It is further observed that by notice for personal hearing on three dates and absence of the appellant on those dates appears to have been considered as grant of three adjournments by the adjudicating authority. In this regard, I find that the



Section 33A(2) of the Central Excise Act, 1944 provides for grant of not more than 3 adjournments, which would envisage four dates of personal hearing and not three dates. The similar view has been taken by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat in the case of Regent Overseas Private Limited and others Vs. Union of India and others reported in 2017 (3) TMI 557 - Gujarat High Court.

8.2 In view of the above, I find that the adjudicating authority was required to give adequate and ample opportunity to the appellant for personal hearing and it is only thereafter, the impugned order was required to be passed. Thus, it is held that the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority is clearly in breach of the principles of natural justice and is not legal and correct.

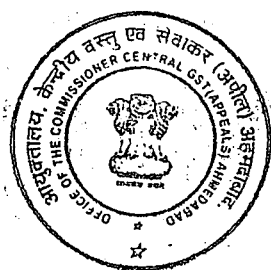
9. I also find that the appellant submitted various documents in support of their claim for exemption from service tax, which was not produced by them before the adjudicating authority and first time submitted at appeal stage. In this regard, I am of the considered view that the appellant cannot seek to establish their eligibility for exemption at the appellate stage by bypassing the adjudicating authority. They should have submitted the relevant records and documents before the adjudicating authority, who is best placed to verify the authenticity of the documents as well as their eligibility for exemption.

10. Considering the facts of the case as discussed hereinabove and in the interest of justice, I am of the considered view that the case is required to be remanded back to the adjudicating authority to examine the case on merits and also to consider the claim of the appellant for exemption from the service tax. The appellant is directed to submit all the records and documents in support of their claim for exemption from the service tax before the adjudicating authority within 15 days of the receipt of this order. The adjudicating authority shall after considering the records and documents submitted by the appellant decide the case afresh by following the principles of natural justice.

11. In view of the above discussion, I remand the matter back to the adjudicating authority to reconsider the issue afresh and pass a speaking order after following the principles of natural justice.

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.



*Akhilesh Kumar*  
(Akhilesh Kumar)  
15 May, 2023  
Commissioner (Appeals)

Attested

Date : 15.05.2023.

  
(R. C. Maniyar)  
Superintendent(Appeals).  
CGST, Ahmedabad

**By RPAD / SPEED POST**

To.  
M/s. Joravarsinh Dhirubhai Vaja,  
7. Krishnabaug Society,  
B/h. Hero Honda Show Room,  
Bhavnagar Road, Dhandhuka,  
Dist: Ahmedabad - 382460

Appellant

The Assistant Commissioner,  
CGST, Division-V,  
Ahmedabad North

Respondent

Copy to :

- 1) The Principal Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad Zone
- 2) The Commissioner, CGST, Ahmedabad North
- 3) The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division V, Ahmedabad North
- 4) The Assistant Commissioner (HQ System), CGST, Ahmedabad North

(for uploading the OIA)

✓ 5) Guard File

6) PA file

