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ORDER IN APPEAL

Brief Facts of the Case :-

This appeal has been filed under Section 107 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") by M/s. Shyam Contractor (Legal Name - Chauhan Vikashsingh Ranvirsingh), 10, Swapnil Homes, Near Signachar Pride, Daskrol, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 430 (hereinafter referred to --382 as "Appellant") against the Order No. ZA240123002779S dated 02.01.2023 (hereinafter referred to as "Impugned Order") passed by the Superintendent, CGST, Range-I, Division-I-Rakhial, Ahmedabad South (hereinafter referred to as "the Adjudicating Authority/Proper Officer").

2. Facts of the case, in brief, are that the *appellant* is registered under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 vide GST Registration GSTIN 24AWJPC0180C1Z8. A Show Cause Notice dated 08.07.2022 was issued to the appellant, wherein it was proposed that registration is liable to be cancelled for the reasons "*failure to furnish returns for a continuous period of six months*". Thereafter, the registration was cancelled vide *impugned order* dated 02.01.2023 under Section 29 of the CGST Act, 2017 for the reasons

Being aggrieved with the *impugned order* dated 02.01.2023 the capellant has preferred the present appeal online on 08.08.2023 and offline on 17.08.2023 i.e. certified copy of order appealed against submitted on 08.02.23 (Rule 108 of the CGST Rules, 2017). In the appeal memo the appellant has submitted that they have not filed the GSTR-3B Return for the month of May 2022; there was a mistake happened to assess the GST tax liability from appellant, because of which, they forget to file GSTR-3B of May 23. The appellant has further given the undertaking that they have paid tax dues relating to month May -22 along with interest. The appellant also submitted condonation of delay application and requested for revocation of their cancelled registration.

4. Personal Hearing in the matter was offered to the "*Appellant*" on 24.08.2023 wherein Mr. Mahender Singh, appeared on behalf of the *appellant* as authorized representative. During PH he has stated that due to miscommunication with earlier consultant, they could not file return in time. New they are ready to pay all dues along with interest and late fee and requested to allow appeal.

Discussion and Findings :-

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

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

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

(2) (3)

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

I observed that in the instant case that as against the impugned order of dated 02.01.2023, the appeal has been filed on online on 08.08.2023 i.e. appeal filed by delay from the normal period prescribed under Section 107(1) of the CGST Act, 2017. I find that though the delay in filing the appeal is condonable only for a further period of one month provided that the *appellant* was prevented by sufficient cause from presenting the appeal is shown and the delay of more than one month is not condonable under the provisions of sub section (4) of Section 107 of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017.

7(ii). In the present matter, the *"impugned order"* is of 02.01.2023 so, the normal appeal period of three months was available up to 02.04.2023 whereas, the present appeal is filed on online on 08.08.2023. Further, looking to the provisions of condonation of delay, I observed that even after condoning delay of filing of appeal for a further period of one month as per provisions of sub section (4)

of Section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017 the last date for filing of appeal comes on 02.05.2023, whereas the present appeal is filed on 08.08.2023.

8. In view of foregoing, I find that the present appeal is filed beyond the time limit prescribed under the provisions of Section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017. Accordingly, I find that the further proceedings in case of present appeal can be taken up for consideration strictly as per the provisions contained in the CGST Act, 2017.

9. I find that this appellate authority is a creature of the statute and has to act as per the provisions contained in the CGST Act. This appellate authority, therefore, cannot condone delay beyond the period permissible under the CGST Act. When the legislature has intended the appellate authority to entertain the appeal by condoning further delay of only one month, this appellate authority cannot go beyond the power vested by the legislature. My views are supported by the following case laws:

(i) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **Singh Enterprises** reported as 2008 (221) E.L.T.163 (S.C.) has held as under:

"8. ...The proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 35 makes the position crystal clear that the appellate authority has no power to allow the appeal to be presented beyond the period of 30 days. The language used makes the position clear that the legislature intended the appellate authority to entertain the appeal by condoning delay only upto 30 days after the expiry of 60 days which is the normal period for preferring appeal. Therefore, there is complete exclusion of Section 5 of the Limitation Act. The Commissioner and the High Court were therefore justified in holding that there was no power to condone the delay after the expiry of 30 days period."

- (ii) In the case of Makjai Laboratories Pvt Ltd reported as 2011 (274) E.L.T. 48 (Bom.), the Hon'ble Bombay High Court held that the Commissioner (Appeals) cannot condone delay beyond further period of 30 days from initial period of 60 days and that provisions of Limitation Act, 1963 is not applicable in such cases as Commissioner (Appeals) is not a Court.
- (iii) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the case of Delta Impex reported as 2004 (173) E.L.T. 449 (Del) held that the Appellate authority has no jurisdiction to extend limitation even in a "suitable" case for a further period of more than thirty days.

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I find that the provisions of Section 107 of the Central Goods 10. and Services Tax Act, 2017 are pari materia with the provisions of Section 85 of the Finance Act, 1994 and Section 35 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and hence, the above judgments would be squarely applicable to the present appeal also.

By respectfully following the above judgments, I hold that this 11. appellate authority cannot condone delay beyond further period of one month as prescribed under proviso to Section 107(4) of the Act. Thus, the appeal filed by the appellant is required to be dismissed on the grounds of limitation as not filed within the prescribed time limit in terms of the provisions of Section 107 of the CGST Act, 2017. I, accordingly, dismiss the present appeal.

अपीलकर्ता 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.

(Adesh Kuma'r Jain) Joint Commissioner (Appeals)

Date: 25 .08.2023



Attested

(Sandheer Kumar) Superintendent (Appeals)

By R.P.A.D.

To, M/s. Shyam Contractor (Legal Name - Chauhan Vikashsingh Ranvirsingh), 10, Swapnil Homes, Near Signachar Pride, Daskrol, Ahmedabad, Gujarat - 382 430.

Copy_to:

- The Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Ahmedabad Zone. 1.
- The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Appeals, Ahmedabad. 2.
- The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Ahmedabad-South. 3.
- The Dy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-I Rakhial, Ahmedabad South. 4.
- 5. The Superintendent, Range - I, Div. I Rakhial, Ahmedabad South. 6.
- The Superintendent (Systems), CGST Appeals, Ahmedabad.
- Guard File, / P.A. File

