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Brief Facts of the Case :

M/s. Gautam Steel Centre, 6, Gautam Estate, Near Chakudia Mahadev Temple, Opposite Municipal Garden, Rakhiyal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380023 (hereinafter referred as 'Appellant') has filed the appeal against Order-in-Original No. 239/AC/Div-1/MPU/2023-24 dated 13.09.2023 (date of communication of the order appealed against is 25.09.2023) (hereinafter referred as 'Impugned Order') passed by the Assistant Commissioner, CGST & C.Ex., Division- 1, Ahmedabad South Commissionerate (hereinafter referred as 'Adjudicating Authority').

2(i). Briefly stated the fact of the case is that the '*Appellant*' are engaged in trading of Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Alloys and have registered under GST with Registration Number 24AAGFM5262J1Z7. The detailed scrutiny of the GST returns for the period from July 2017 to March 2018 has been carried out in respect of the appellant and discrepancy found out communicated to the appellant vide ASMT 10 dated 29.04.2022. Vide ASTM-10 query was raised that ITC of Rs. 24,13,369/- in CGST and Rs. 5,85,151/- in SGST has been availed in GSTR 3B for July 2017.

2(ii). The appellant in their reply vide ASMT 11 dated 10.05.2022 Intimated that they have claimed the TRAN-I ITC in GSTR 3B of July 2017 for CGST Rs. 19,32,974 and SGST Rs. 1,04,757. Further they have also filed TRAN-1 electronically on 30.11.2017 by which they have claimed ITC in their electronic credit ledger for CGST Rs. 19,32,974/ and SGST Rs. 93,98,512/-. While filing the GSTR-3B return for April 2018 they have reversed the ITC of Rs. 19,32,974/- under the head of CGST and Rs. 93,98,512 under the head of SGST/-. But they had not paid the interest on this excess availment of ITC and utilization thereof during the filing of GSTR 3B returns for earlier period.

3. The department did not agree with reply of the appellant and hence DRC-01 A dated 02.09.2022 having been issued to the appellant. Further SCN issued on 20.09.2022 and hereafter, the adjudicating authority vide impugned order has confirmed the demand of interest for wrong availment and reversal of ITC amounting to Rs. 1,36,129/- (CGST Rs. 34,303/- and SGST Rs. 1,01,823/-) under the provisions of Section 50(3) read with the provisions of Section 140(1) and Section 73(1) of the CGST Act 2017 on the following grounds:-

- that the vide Notification No. 69/2018- Central Tax da.ted 31.12.2018 the tax payer who obtained the GSTIN as per procedure lay down in the notification No. 31/2018 Central Tax dated 06.08.2018 can file their GSTR-3B return for the period from July, 2017 to February, 2019 on or before31st day of March, 2019;

- that the noticee no where argued, contested and submitted any proof that they have got the GSTN after following the procedure mentioned in the Notification No. 31/2018 dated 06.08.2018 hence, the benefit of the Notification No. 69/2018 dated 31.12.2018 cannot granted to the notice;
- that noticee have availed and utilized inadmissible / Excess Credit under the head of CGST and SGST and reversed the same in GSTR-3B of April- 2018 filed on 12.06.2018 and not paid the interest which is payable as per Section 50 (3);

4. Being aggrieved with the *impugned order* dated 13.09.2023, the *appellant* has filed the present appeal on 26.12.2023 on the following grounds:-

- The appellant deny all the allegations/ observations raised in the DRC-01 order of demand of interest;
- the appellant wants to submit that there was some mistake in filing of returns which had already been rectified by the appellant himself suomoto. Further, the due dates of filing of GSTR-3B returns had been extended for the period of July-17 to Feb-18 upto 31.03.2019, the interest liability for such period is not justifiable at all;
 - the appellant wants to draw attention towards the fact that as per Notification No.69/2018, the notification No.35/2017 has been amended by extending due date of filing GSTR-3B returns upto 31.03.2019;
- In the notifications no. 35/2017-Central Tax & 16/2018- Central Tax, the due date of filing GSTR-3B returns for the period of July-17 to November-2018 has been extended upto 31 .12.2018;
- That when the due date of filing of GSTR-3B has been extended upto 31.03.2019, there would be no question of interest on excess utilization of ITC. Thus, in view of above submission, there is no interest liability when the appellant has suo-moto reversed the ITC in the GSTR-3B of April-2018 i.e. before 31.03.2019. So, the appellant hereby requests you to drop the proceedings in the interest of justice;
- that being the first year of GST era in 2017-18, there were certain mistakes in filing of GSTR-1 & GSTR-3B returns. There was also some clerical and procedural lacuna on part of the appellant that by mistake the appellant had availed excess amount of ITC and part thereof also utilized against the output tax liability. However, on coming to know about such mistake, the appellant also reversed the ITC in GSTR-3B of



Apr-18. It is also undisputed fact that the appellant had reversed the excess amount of ITC suo-moto. There was just some procedural lacuna which can be allowable;

In view of the above the appellant requests to drop the demand of interest liability in the interest of law and justice.

Personal Hearing:

5. Personal Hearing in the matter was held on 06.03.2024 wherein Shri Vipul Khandhar, C.A. appeared on behalf of the 'Appellant' as authorized representative. During P.H. he has submitted that they have filed all the GSTR-3B within the time limit extended vide Notification 69/2018 and other relevant Notifications 35/2017. Since all returns have been filed within time limit, no interest is payable. Further due process of law has also not been follow by Ld. Adjudicating Authority by issuing corrigendum to SCN. He further reiterated the written submissions and requested to allow appeal.

Discussion and Findings :-

6. I have gone through the facts of the case, written submissions made by the 'appellant'. I find that the main issue to be decided in the instant case is whether the demand of interest of Rs. 1,36,129/- (CGST Rs. 34,303/- and SGST Rs. 1,01,823/-) for wrong availment and reversal of ITC under the provisions of Section 50(3) read with the provisions of Section 140(1) and Section 73(1) of the CGST Act 2017 is legal and proper or otherwise.

7. On carefully going through the submissions of *appellant* it is observed that the appellant has claimed the TRAN-I ITC in GSTR 3B of July 2017 for CGST Rs. 19,32,974 and SGST Rs. 1,04,757. Further they have also filed TRAN 1 electronically on Rs. 30.11.2017 by which they have claimed ITC in their electronic credit ledger for CGST Rs. 19,32,974/ and SGST Rs. 93,98,512/-. While filing the GSTR-3B return for April 2018 they have reversed the ITC of Rs. 19,32,974/- under the head of CGST and Rs. 93,98,512 under the head of SGST/-. But they had not paid the interest on this excess availment of ITC and utilization thereof during the filing of GSTR 3B returns for earlier period.

S(i). In this regard the appellant contended that as per Notification No.69/2018, the notification No.35/2017 has been amended by extending due date of filing GSTR-3B returns upto 31.03.2019. That when the due date of filing of GSTR-3B has been extended upto 31.03.2019, there would be no question of interest on excess utilization of ITC. Thus, there is no interest

liability when the appellant has suo-moto reversed the ITC in the GSTR-3B of April-2018 i.e. before 31.03.2019.

S(ii). In this regard, the sequence of the notification and words of the notification are mentioned as under:

Sr.	Notification	Purpose of the Notification	Remarks			
<u>No.</u> 1	No. & Date					
	35 Central Tax dated 15.09.2017	jet jetti toj oj rototirt	paragraph of this notification vide			
2	16/2018. Central Tax dated 23.03.201 8	Last Date for filing of return in FORM GSTFI-3B for the month of April-2018 to June 2018	Provided that the return in FORM			
3 (a) altrain	31/2018 Central Tax dated 06.08.2018	Vide this notification the special procedure for application is prescribed the persons who did not file the complete Form GST REG 26 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 but received only a Provisional Identification Number (PID) till the 31 st December, 2017 where in the				
4	46/2018 Central Tax dated 10.09.2018	Purpose of this notification is to inform the last date of filing of GSTR-3B for the Tax payer who obtained the GSTIN as per the notification No. 31/2018 Central Tax dated 06.08.2018	For the said purpose the Proviso was inserted in the Notification No. 35/2017 Central Tax dated 15.09.2017 & 16/2018- Central Tax dated 23.03.2018			
5	69/2018 Central Tax dated 31.12.2018	Vide this notification the Proviso amended which is inserted in the first paragraph of this notification 35/2017 Central Tax dated 15.09.2017 & 16/2018- Central Tax dated 23.03.2018 as under: July, 2017 to November, 2018" and "31 st day of December. 2018". the words, figures and letters "July, 2017 to February 2019" and "31 st day of March, 2019.	Vide this notification the last date of filing of GSTR-3B for the Tax payer who obtained the GSTIN as per the notification No. 31/2018 Central Tax dated 06.08.2018 is amended as under: GSTR-3B for the period from July, 2017 to February 2019 to be filed on or before "31 st day of March 2019"			

S(iii). On the basis of above said notifications, it is observed that for filing the GSTR 3B returns last date was extended till 31.03.2019 for those taxpayers who had not migrated into the GST Regime and not filed the complete Form GST REG 26 but were having a Provisional Identification Number (PID) as provided by the State Commercial Tax / Central Excise/Service Tax Department for logging in the GST Portal. The benefits of the above said notifications were not extended to those taxpayers who had already got their GSTIN. In the instant case the appellant was already registered with the GSTIN having GSTIN Number 24AAGFM5262JIZ7 and the above said notifications are not related to the appellant. Hence, the benefit of the Notification No. 69/2018 dated 31.12.2018 cannot granted to the appellant.

9. In view of the above discussions, I find that the demand of interest for wrong availment and reversal of ITC amounting to Rs. 1,36,129/- (CGST Rs. 34,303/- and SGST Rs. 1,01,823/-) under the provisions of Section 50(3) read with the provisions of Section 140(1) and Section 73(1) of the CGST Act 2017 is legal and proper. Accordingly, the impugned order of the adjudicating authority is upheld.

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 Kumar Jain) Joint Commissioner (Appeals) Date: <u>2.04.2024</u>



Attested

(Sandheer Kumar) Superintendent (Appeals)

By R.P.A.D. To, M/s. Gautam Steel Centre, 6, Gautam Estate, Near Chakudia Mahadev Temple, Opposite Municipal Garden, Rakhiyal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380023.

Copy to:

- 1. The Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Ahmedabad Zone.
- 2. The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Appeals, Ahmedabad.
- 3. The Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex., Ahmedabad South.
- 4. The Dy./Asstt. Commissioner (RRA), CGST & C. Ex, Ahmedabad South.
- 5. The Dy./Asstt. Commissioner, CGST & C. Ex, Division- 1, Ahmedabad South Commissionerate.
- 6. The Superintendent (Systems), CGST Appeals, Ahmedabad.
- 7. Guard File.

8. P.A. File.

