

रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी. द्वारा

क फाइल संख्या : File No : V2(ST)02/EA-2/Ahd-South/2018-19 Stay Appl.No. /2018-19

ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal Nos. AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-121-2018-19 दिनाँक Date : 09-11-2018 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue

<u>श्री उमा शंकर</u> आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित

Passed by Shri. Uma Shanker, Commissioner (Appeals)

ग Arising out of Order-in-Original No. SD-02/Ref/03/VJP/2017-18 दिनाँक: 27.04.2017 issued by Assistant Commissioner, Div-VI, Central Tax, Ahmedabad-South

ध अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address of the Appellant / Respondent

QX KPO Servcices Pvt. Ltd Ahmedabad

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथारिथित 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, 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:

(ii) 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 प्रकिया 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 processing of the goods in a warehouse or in storage whether in a factory or in a warehouse.

(b) 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।

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

- (b) 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।
- (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 डयूटी केंडिट 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) के द्वीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 के नियम 9 के अंतर्गत विनिर्दिष्ट प्रपन्न संख्या इए–8 में दो प्रतियों में, प्रेषित आदेश के प्रति आदेश प्रेषित विनाँक से तीन मास के भीतर मूल—आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो—दो प्रतियों के साथ उन्नित 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 रूपये या उससे कम हो तो रूपये 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, अपीलों के मामले में सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरणं (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, अहमदाबाद में ओ—20, न्यू मैन्टल हास्पिटल कम्पाउण्ड, मेघाणी नगर, अहमदाबाद—380016
- (a) 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.

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. Registar 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 ओदश 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 हैं।

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 not withstanding 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 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 in 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 अपीलो 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 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 alone is in dispute."

:: ORDER-IN- APPEAL ::

The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-VI, Ahmedabad (South) (hereinafter referred to as 'appellant') has filed the present appeal against the Order-in-Original number SD-02/REF-03/VIP/2017-18 dated 27.04.2017 (hereinafter referred to as 'impugned order') passed in the matter of refund claim filed by M/s. QX KPO Services Pvt. Ltd., 201 & 401, GNFC Info Tower, S. G. Highway, Bodakdev, Ahmedabad (hereinafter referred to as 'respondents');

- 2. Briefly facts of the case are that the appellants are registered with the Service Tax Department under the category of "Rent-a-Cab Service, Security/ Detective Agency Service, Manpower Recruitment/ Supply Agency Service, Business Auxiliary Service, Legal Consultancy Service' and holding Registration No. AAACQ1087GST001. They filed a refund claim of ₹29,70,889/- on 30.01.2017 for the period April 2016 to June 2016 under Notification number 27/2012-C.E.(NT) dated 18.06.2012 (hereinafter referred to as 'the said Notification' for sake of brevity) before the proper authority in prescribed format. The adjudicating authority, vide the impugned order, rejected an amount of ₹5,75,853/- and allowed rest of the amount of ₹23,95,036/- in terms of Notification number 27/2012-C.E.(NT) dated 18.06.2012 read with Section 11B of the Central Excise Act,1944 made applicable to the Service Tax matter vide Section 83 of the Finance Act,1994.
- The impugned order was reviewed by the Principal Commissioner of 3. Central Goods & Service Tax, Ahmedabad (South) and issued review order number 14/2017-18 dated 02.08.2017 for filing appeal under section 84(1) of the Finance Act, 1994 on the ground that the impugned order was not legal and proper and the refund was sanctioned erroneously. The appellant claimed that during pre-audit verification, it was pointed out that the refund is inadmissible and liable for rejection on the ground that the respondents are a subsidiary of UK based company M/s. QX Limited and both the companies are merely distinct persons as provided in item (b) of explanation 3 of Section 65B(44) of the Finance Act and accordingly, the service provided by the respondents to M/s. QX Limited cannot be termed as export as per Rule (6A) Export of Services Rules, 1994. I, after going through the documents and submissions available before me, remanded back the said case to the adjudicating authority to examine the taxability of the services offered by the respondents. Being aggrieved with my order, the respondents approached the CESTAT, West Zonal Bench, Ahmedabad. The CESTAT, vide order number A/11302-11304/2018 dated 27.06.2018, set aside my order and remanded back the matter to me to pass fresh order with observation that the issue being refund matter, taxability is beyond the scope of the show cause notice

and hence, not sustainable. Accordingly, as per the order of the Tribunal, I take up the matter and examine only the issue as to whether the respondents are eligible for refund or otherwise.

- 4. Personal hearing in the said cases was granted on 11.10.2018 wherein Shri Tushar Shah, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the respondents and argued that they are distinct person and different legal entities. He further submitted additional documents in support of the claims of the respondents.
- I have carefully gone through the facts of the cases on records, grounds of the Appeal Memorandum made by the appellant and oral and written submissions made by the respondents at the time of personal hearing. I find that during pre-audit verification, it was specifically pointed out that the refund was inadmissible on the ground that the appellants are financially dependent on their parent company and hence the services provided by the appellants do not qualify as Export of Service. Now the question to be decided is whether as per clause (f) of Rule 6A, the appellants are merely establishment of M/s. QX Limited, UK or otherwise.
- 6. At the onset, I find that the respondents have submitted before me that they are incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 (now Companies Act, 2013) and they claimed that this is quite sufficient to establish the fact that they are legally independent entity. They further argued that their financial dependence on their parent company cannot deny their existence as an independent entity. As per clause (1) of Rule 6A of Service Tax rules, any service provided or agreed to be provided shall be treated as export of service if all the below mentioned conditions satisfied cumulatively-
 - A. The provider of service is located in the taxable territory:The first condition to be satisfied is that the service provider must be located in the taxable territory. Under section 65B(52) of the act, the term 'taxable territory' means the territory to which the provisions of the act apply.
 - B. The Recipient of service is located outside India:- The second condition to be satisfied is that the recipient of service (service receiver) must be located outside India. This means that the service receiver must be located outside the territorial limits of India, including the State of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - C. The service is not a service specified in section 66D of the Act:- The third condition to be satisfied is that the service must not be a service specified in the Negative List spelts out in section 66D of the Act.

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- **D.** The place of provision of the service outside India:- The forth condition to be satisfied is that the place of provision of the service must be outside India. The fulfillment of this condition will have to be determined in accordance with the place of provision of service laid down in Rules 3 to 14 of the PPP Rules.
- E. The payment of such service has been received by the provider of service in convertible foreign exchange:- The fifth condition to be satisfied is that the payment for the service in question must have been received by the provider of that service in convertible foreign exchange. The term 'convertible foreign exchange' has not been defined in the act or the Rules. Generally, the term is understood to mean 'foreign exchange which is for the time being treated by the Reserve Bank of India as convertible foreign exchange for the purposes of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and any rules made thereunder'.
- F. The provider of service and recipient of service are not merely establishments of a distinct person in accordance with item (b) of Explanation 3 of clause (44) of section 65B of the Act:- This is the sixth and final condition that must be satisfied. This is deeming provision which carves out an exception to the general rule that only services provided by a person to another person are taxable. The fiction created was to ensure that inter se provision of services between such persons, deemed to be separate persons would be taxable. The sixth condition stipulates that the provider of service and recipient of service should not be merely establishments of a distinct person referred to above. In effect, if a person has one establishment in a taxable territory and another establishment in a non-taxable territory, services provided by the former to the latter will not be treated as 'export of service'.
- 7. The respondents have not denied the applicability of the above conditions, however, they have claimed that they have no other establishment in any non-taxable territory and hence, according to them, Rule 66(A)(1)(F) of Service Tax rules, would not be applicable in their case. In contrast to the argument of the respondents, the adjudicating authority, in the impugned orders, has quoted that the respondents are a subsidiary of UK based company QX Limited. Going through the website of M/s. QX Limited, I found that their corporate home is in Skipton, North Yorkshire with American offices in New York, and four Indian independent subsidiary offices in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Mumbai, and Gurugram, India. As a business grows over time, the complexities of managing the various elements also increase Every bit of diversification, whether from internal sources or acquiring other businesses, adds to the

problem of successfully managing the entire operation. When companies reach a point that size or diversification begins to pose too many challenges, some companies choose to establish independent subsidiaries to manage the complexity. The relationship between the parent company and an independent subsidiary tends to be limited. In the case of Milind Kulkarni vs. The Commissioner of Central Excise, Pune-I {2016(44) S.T.R. 71 (Tri.- Mumbai)}, the Tribunal held that the branch and head office are distinct entities. I reproduce below the related lines of the views of the Tribunal;

Same view has been taken by the Tribunal in the case of Yamazaki Mazak India Pvt. Ltd. Also, Circular No. 111/5/2009, dated 24-2-2009, has clarified the same. Related content of the said circular is pasted as below;

"It is an accepted legal principle that the law has to be read harmoniously so as to avoid contradictions within a legislation. Keeping this principle in view, the meaning of the term 'used outside India' has to be understood in the context of the characteristics of a particular category of service as mentioned in sub-rule (1) of rule 3. For example, under Architect service (a Category I service [Rule 3(1)(i)]), even if an Indian architect prepares a design sitting in India for a property located in U.K. and hands it over to the owner of such property having his business and residence in India, it would have to be presumed that service has been used outside India. Similarly, if an Indian event manager (a Category II service [Rule 3(1)(ii)]) arranges a seminar for an Indian company in U.K. the service has to be treated to have been used outside India because the place of performance is U.K. even though the benefit of such a seminar may flow back to the employees serving the company in India."

Also, the Tribunal in case of *Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt. Ltd.* [2014 (36) S.T.R. 766] has observed as follows;

"51. Even otherwise also, I find that the disputed service is the service being provided by the appellant to his principal located in Singapore. The marketing operations done by the appellant in India carnot be said to be at the behest of any Indian customer. The service being provided may or may not result in any sales of the product in Indian soil. The transactions

and activities between the appellant and Singapore principal company are the disputed activities. As such, the services are being provided by the appellant to Singapore Recipient company and to be used by them at Singapore, may be for the purpose of the sale of their product in India, have to be held as export of services.

52. Apart from the above, we note that there was identical issue was before the Bench of the Tribunal in the case of Gap International Sourcing (India) Pvt. Ltd. [2014-TIOL-465- CESTAT-Del]. Vide its detailed order and after considering the various decisions of the higher Court as also various circulars issued by the Board, it stand held that services of identifying the Indian customers, for procurement of various goods on behest of foreign entity is the service provided by a foreign entity and such service provided by a person in India is consumed and used by a person abroad. It has to be treated as export of services. I also take note of the Tribunal's decision in the case of Vodafone Essar Cellular Ltd. v. CCE, Pune [2013-TIOL-566-CESTAT-Mum = 2013 (31) S.T.R. 738 (T)] wherein it stand held that when the services is rendered to third party at the behest of the assessees' customers, the service recipient is assessees' customer and not the third party i.e. his customer's customer. As such, the services being provided at the behest of the foreign telecommunication services provided to a person, roaming India were held to be constituting export services under the Export of Services Rules, 2005. The said decision stand subsequently followed by the Tribunal in the case of CESTAT, Mumbai v. Bayer Material Science Pvt. Ltd. v. CST, Mumbai [2014-TIOL-1064-CESTAT-Mum]. Business Auxiliary services provided by the assessee to their members located outside India by marketing their product in India was held to be export of services inasmuch as the service was held to be provided to the foreign located person who was also paying to the assessee on such services in convertible foreign exchange."

After observing above, Tribunal decision held as follow;

"54. In view of the above, the difference of opinion on various points is resolved as under:

(i) That the Business Auxiliary Services of promotion of market in India for foreign principal made in terms of agreement dated 1-7-2005 amount to Export of Services and the Hon'ble Supreme Court decision in the case of State of Kerala and Others v. The Cochin Coal Company Ltd. - 1961 (12) STC 1 (S.C.) as also Burmah Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of India Ltd. v. Commercial Tax Officers [1960 (11) STC 764] explaining the meaning of export is not relevant inasmuch as the same deals with the export of goods and not export of services;

- ' (ii) That the Business Auxiliary services provided by the assessee to their Singapore parent company was delivered outside India as such was used there and is covered by the provisions of Export of Services Rules and are not liable to Service Tax."
- 7.1. Despite the name "parent company," I find that the relationship between the parent company (M/s. QX Limited, UK) and its subsidiary (the respondents) is not the same as a parent and child relationship. While the parent company does hold influence over the subsidiary company i.e. the respondents, the subsidiary is a legally independent entity. This is very clear in terms of the certificate of incorporation that has been submitted, before me, by the appellants. This makes the respondents a regular independent subsidiary to M/s. QX Limited, UK instead of being wholly owned subsidiary of the latter.
- **7.2.** So, according to the discussion held above, there is no denying that the respondents are an independent subsidiary unit of M/s. QX Limited, UK and therefore, they have fulfilled all the conditions mentioned in clause (1) of Rule 6A of Service Tax Rules. Thus, I consider that the respondents are eligible for the said refunds mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
- **8.** Accordingly, as per the above discussion, I do not find any reason to interfere in the impugned order and reject the appeal filed by the Department.
- 9. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपीलों का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।
- **9.** The appeals filed by the appellant stand disposed off in above terms.

(उमा शंकर)

CENTRAL TAX (Appeals),

AHMEDABAD.

ATTESTED

SUPERINTENDENT,

CENTRAL TAX (APPEALS),

AHMEDABAD.

To,
M/s QX KPO Services Pvt. Ltd.,
201 & 401, GNFC Info Tower,
S. G. Highway, Bodakdev,
Ahmedabad-380 054.

Copy To:-

- 1. The Chief Commissioner, Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone, Ahmedabad.
- 2. The Commissioner, Central Tax, Ahmedabad (South).
- 3. The Asstt/Deputy Commissioner, CGST, Division-VI, Ahmedabad South.
- 4. The Asstt. Commissioner, (System) CGST, Ahmedabad (South).
- 5.—Guard File.
- 6. P.A. File.