



सत्यमेव जयते

## केंद्रीय कर आयुक्त (अपील)

O/O THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS), CENTRAL TAX,

केंद्रीय कर भवन,

7<sup>th</sup> Floor, GST Building,

Near Polytechnic,

सातवीं मंजिल, पॉलिटेक्निक के पास,

Ambavadi, Ahmedabad-380015

आम्बावाडी, अहमदाबाद-380015

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रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी. द्वारा

क फाइल संख्या : File No : V2(ST)121/Ahd-South/2018-19  
Stay Appl.No. /2018-19

ख अपील आदेश संख्या Order-In-Appeal Nos. AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-0127-2018-19  
दिनांक Date : 20-12-2018 जारी करने की तारीख Date of Issue \_\_\_\_\_

श्री उमा शंकर आयुक्त (अपील) द्वारा पारित

Passed by Shri. Uma Shanker, Commissioner (Appeals)

ग Arising out of Order-in-Original No. CGST-VI/ref-66/Sunderdeep/18-19 दिनांक: 05.07.2018  
issued by Assistant Commissioner, Div-VI, Central Tax, Ahmedabad-South

घ अपीलकर्ता का नाम एवं पता Name & Address of the Appellant / Respondent  
Sunderdeep Infrastructure LLP  
Ahmedabad

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 :

(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 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 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 मामलों 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 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 हों।

(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) 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.

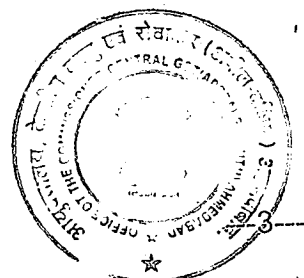
सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपील:-  
Appeal to Custom, Excise, & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(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, अपीलों के मामले में सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, अहमदाबाद में ओ-20, न्यू मैन्टल हॉस्पिटल कम्पाउण्ड, मेघानी 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. 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 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.

- (6) 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 .

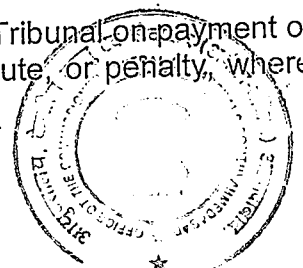
For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, 10% of the Duty & Penalty confirmed by the Appellate Commissioner would have to be pre-deposited, provided that the pre-deposit amount shall not exceed Rs.10 Crores. It may be noted that the pre-deposit is a mandatory condition for filing appeal before CESTAT.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



### ORDER IN APPEAL

M/s. Sunderdeep Infrastructure LLP, 501, Sapphire Complex, C. G. Road, Ahmedabad (*hereinafter referred to as 'the appellants'*) have filed the present appeal against Order-in-Original number CGST-VI/REF-66/Sunderdeep/18-19 dated 05.07.2018 (*hereinafter referred to as 'impugned order'*) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-VI, Ahmedabad-South (*hereinafter referred to as 'adjudicating authority'*).

2. The facts of the case, in brief, are that the appellants were engaged in providing services under the category of 'Renting of Immovable Property Service' and held Service Tax registration number AAACV4998HST001. The appellants had filed a refund claim of ₹ 95,783/- on 25.04.2018. The said refund claim was filed as the appellants had paid excess Service Tax amounting to ₹95,783/- in pre GST regime during April 2017 to June 2017 and due to introduction of GST from 01.07.2017, they could not adjust the amount in the subsequent period. The adjudicating authority, vide the impugned order, rejected the entire claim of refund of ₹ 95,783/- on the following grounds;

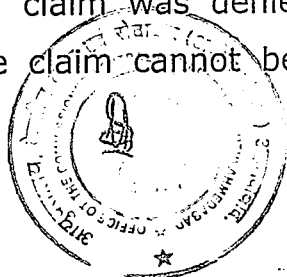
(i) The appellants did not state any reason for payment of excess of Service Tax.

(ii) The appellants did not submit any evidence regarding unjust enrichment.

(iii) The appellants did not submit bank statement regarding the income received during April 2017 to June 2017.

(iv) The adjudicating authority claimed that it is also possible that the appellants might have paid correct Service Tax due to increase in value of the service provided by them.

3. Being aggrieved with the impugned order the appellants have preferred the present appeal. They stated that the adjudicating authority neither issued any show cause notice nor offered the appellants any opportunity of personal hearing thereby denying the latter their right to natural justice. The appellants further reiterated that the refund claim was denied on vague grounds. They further argued that the claim cannot be rejected on the ground of unjust



enrichment as the matter is excess payment in cash and was mentioned in the ST-3 return for the period April 2017 to June 2017.

4. Personal hearing in the matter was granted and held on 25.10.2018. Shri Pravin Dhandharia, Chartered Accountant, appeared before me on behalf of the appellants and reiterated the contents of appeal memo.

5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case on records, grounds of appeal in the Appeal Memorandum and oral submissions made by the appellants at the time of personal hearing. There are the following issues to be decided in the case viz.;

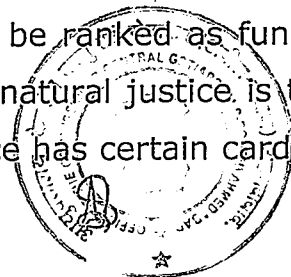
(i) The claim was rejected by the adjudicating authority without following the principles of natural justice i.e. without issuing show cause notice and without offering the appellants the opportunity of personal hearing;

(ii) Claim was rejected on the ground that the appellants might have passed on the burden of Service Tax to their clients and thus doctrine of unjust enrichment would be applicable;

(iii) Claim was rejected on the ground that the appellants did not submit any bank statement regarding the income received during April 2017 to June 2017;

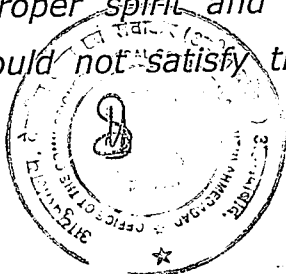
(iv) Claim was rejected on the ground that it is also possible that the appellants might have paid correct Service Tax due to increase in value of the service provided by them.

6. Regarding the issue that the appellants were not given any opportunity to present their case properly as per the principle of natural justice as no show cause notices were issued to them; I consider that the Adjudication proceedings shall be conducted by observing principles of natural justice. The principles of natural justice must be followed by the authorities at all levels in all proceedings under the Act or Rules and the order passed in violation of the principles of natural justice is liable to be set aside by Appellate Authority. Natural justice is the essence of fair adjudication, deeply rooted in tradition and conscience, to be ranked as fundamental. The purpose of following the principles of natural justice is the prevention of miscarriage of justice. Natural justice has certain cardinal principles,



which must be followed in every proceeding. Judicial and quasi-judicial authorities should exercise their powers fairly, reasonably and impartially in a just manner and they should not decide a matter on the basis of an enquiry unknown to the party, but should decide on the basis of material and evidence on record. Their decisions should not be biased, arbitrary or based on mere conjectures and surmises. The first and foremost principle is what is commonly known as *audi alteram partem* rule. It says that no one should be condemned unheard. The orders passed by the authorities should give reason for arriving at any conclusion showing proper application of mind. Violation of either of them could in the given facts and circumstances of the case, vitiate the order itself. The Supreme Court in the case of S.N. Mukherjee vs Union of India [(1990) 4 SCC 594], while referring to the practice adopted and insistence placed by the Courts in United States, emphasized the importance of recording of reasons for decisions by the administrative authorities and tribunals. It said "administrative process will best be vindicated by clarity in its exercise". The Hon'ble Supreme Court has further elaborated the legal position in the case of Siemens Engineering and Manufacturing Co. of India Ltd. v. Union of India and Anr. [AIR 1976 SC 1785], as under;

*".....If courts of law are to be replaced by administrative authorities and tribunals, as indeed, in some kinds of cases, with the proliferation of Administrative Law, they may have to be so replaced, it is essential that administrative authorities and tribunals should accord fair and proper hearing to the persons sought to be affected by their orders and give sufficiently clear and explicit reasons in support of the orders made by them. Then alone administrative authorities and tribunals exercising quasi-judicial function will be able to justify their existence and carry credibility with the people by inspiring confidence in the adjudicatory process. The rule requiring reasons to be given in support of an order is, like the principle of audi alteram partem, a basic principle of natural justice which must inform every quasi-judicial process and this rule must be observed in its proper spirit and mere pretence of compliance with it would not satisfy the requirement of law. ...."*



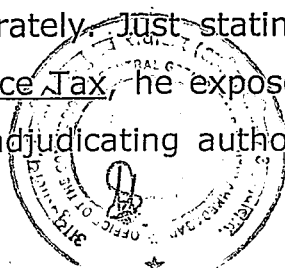
The adjudicating authority should, therefore, bear in mind that no material should be relied in the adjudication order to support a finding against the interests of the party unless the party has been given an opportunity to rebut that material. Whenever an order is struck down as invalid being in violation of principles of natural justice, there is no final decision of the case and fresh proceedings are left upon. All that is done is to vacate the order assailed by virtue of its inherent defect, but the proceedings are not terminated. However, looking to the apathy of the adjudicating authority, I would prefer to decide the case, on merit only, at my level as remanding the case back for fresh hearing would be utter wastage of man-hour. In view of the above, I would now discuss the case exclusively on merit.

7. Regarding the rest of the issues, I find that the adjudicating authority has quoted very bizarre observations to reject the refund claim. His entire observation is based on pure assumption and presumption. If an amount is stated to have been paid in excess and was not required to be paid, no reason is required to be submitted. The appellants have reflected the excess paid amount in their ST-3 return for the period April to September 2017. I have verified the said ST-3n return and conclude that the amount excess paid is genuine.

Regarding the issue of unjust enrichment, when an amount of Service Tax is paid in excess, how can the said excess amount be passed on to the end user is not clear to me. If the adjudicating authority had any doubt, he could have asked the appellants to submit evidence that the burden of the said amount has been borne by the latter. However, as the adjudicating authority seemed to be in a hurry to decide the case, it is very natural on his part not to contact the appellants so as to avoid the extra work of issuing show cause notice and awarding personal hearing to the appellants.

Regarding the third issue that the appellants did not submit bank statement, I do not see any utility to verify bank statement when the appellants have submitted ST-3 return of the relevant period. Further, if the adjudicating authority was unable to understand the issue, he could have asked for the same which he very cleverly avoided.

Lastly, if the adjudicating authority found any possibility that the appellants have paid correct Service Tax, he should have mentioned it in the impugned order elaborately. Just stating that the appellants might have paid correct Service Tax, he exposed his callous attitude towards the appellants. The adjudicating authority is performing the



role of a quasi-judicial authority and he should behave with a rational attitude. His order should be a conclusive speaking one. The words "if, but, might" etc. play no role when a quasi judicial authority delivers his/her verdict; as these convert the impugned order into a non-speaking one.

8. If the department starts rejecting the refund claims on flimsy grounds, then we will witness an increase of unnecessary litigations which would put extra burden on the quasi judicial and judicial bodies. The adjudicating authority should work as an independent entity and should have concluded the issue free from any prejudice.

9. Therefore, in view of the discussion held above, I set aside the impugned order and allow the appeals filed by the appellants with consequential relief.

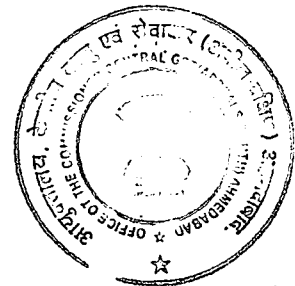
10. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।

10. The appeal filed by the appellants stands disposed off in above terms.

*उमा शंकर*

(उमा शंकर)

CENTRAL TAX (Appeals),  
AHMEDABAD.



ATTESTED

*S. Dutta*  
(S. DUTTA) 09/01/19

SUPERINTENDENT,

CENTRAL TAX (APPEALS), AHMEDABAD.



To,  
M/s. Sunderdeep Infrastructure LLP,  
501, Sapphire Complex, C. G. Road,  
Ahmedabad- 380 006

**Copy to:**

- 1) The Chief Commissioner, Central Tax, Ahmedabad.
- 2) The Commissioner, Central Tax, Ahmedabad (South).
- 3) The Dy./Asst. Commissioner, Central Tax, Div-VI, Ahmedabad (South).
- 4) The Asst. Commissioner (System), Central Tax, Hq., Ahmedabad (South).
- 5) Guard File.
- 6) P. A. File.

