



सत्यमेव जयते

आयुक्त का कार्यालय
Office of the Commissioner
केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील अहमदाबाद आयुक्तालय
Central GST, Appeals Ahmedabad Commissionerate
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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

By SPEED POST

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(क)	फ़ाइल संख्या / File No.	GAPPL/COM/STP/4109/2023 / 125 - 127
(ख)	अपील आदेश संख्या और दिनांक / Order-In -Appeal and date	AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-208/2023-24 and 26.12.2023
(ग)	पारित किया गया / Passed By	श्री ज्ञानचंद जैन, आयुक्त (अपील) Shri Gyan Chand Jain, Commissioner (Appeals)
(घ)	जारी करने की दिनांक / Date of Issue	03.01.2024
(ङ)	Arising out of Order-In-Original No. 400/AC/Div-I/HKB/2022-23 dated 01.02.2023 passed by The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-I, Ahmedabad South.	
(च)	अपीलकर्ता का नाम और पता / Name and Address of the Appellant	M/s. Kiran Harivadan Prajapati, 1783, Prajapati Vas, Kumbhar Gali, Navi Pole, Dolatkhana, Sarangpur, Ahmedabad- 380001

कोई व्यक्ति इस अपील-आदेश से असंतोष अनुभव करता है तो वह इस आदेश के प्रति यथास्थिति नीचे बताए गए सक्षम अधिकारी को अपील अथवा पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकता है, जैसा कि ऐसे आदेश के विरुद्ध हो 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 :-

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 :-

(क) यदि माल की हानि के मामले में जब ऐसी हानिकार खाने 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।

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.

(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।



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।

In case of goods exported outside India export to Nepal or Bhutan, without payment of duty.

(घ) 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।

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.

(2) 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 भीतरमूल-आदेश एवं अपील आदेश की दो-दो प्रतियों के साथ उचित आवेदन किया जाना चाहिए। उसके साथ खाता इ का मुख्य शीर्ष 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.

(3) रिविजन आवेदन के साथ जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये या उससे कम होतो रुपये 200/- फीस भुगतान की जाए और जहाँ संलग्नरकम 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 सेवा कर 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 :-

(2) उक्तलिखित परिच्छेद 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 2nd माला, बहुमाली भवन, असरवा, गिरधरनागर, अहमदाबाद-380004।

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

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 मूलआदेश यथास्थिति निर्णयन प्राधिकारी के आदेश में से प्रत्येक की एक प्रतिपर 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 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) एके प्रति अपील के मामले में कर्तव्यमांग (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 सेवाकर के अंतर्गत, शामिल होगा कर्तव्य की मांग (Duty Demanded)।

- (1) खंड (Section) 11D के तहत निर्धारित राशि;
- (2) लिया गलत सेनवैट क्रेडिट की राशि;
- (3) 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.

(6) (i) 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."



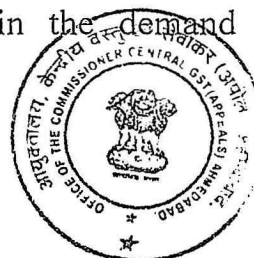
ORDER-IN-APPEAL

The present appeal has been filed by M/s. Kiran Harivadan Prajapati, 1783, Prajapati Vas/ Kumbhar Gali, Navi Pole, Dolatkhana, Sarangpura, Ahmedabad - 380001 (hereinafter referred to as "the appellant") against Order-in-Original No. 400/AC/Div-I/HKB/2022-23 dated 01.02.2023 (hereinafter referred to as "the impugned order") passed by the Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division-I, Ahmedabad South (hereinafter referred to as "the adjudicating authority").

2. Briefly stated, the facts of the case are that the appellant are holding PAN No. ANMPP5033B. On scrutiny of the data received from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for the Financial Year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, it was noticed that the appellant had earned an income of Rs. 1,63,65,896/- during the F.Y. 2014-15 and Rs. 1,33,32,374/- during the FY 2015-16, which was reflected under the heads "Sales / Gross Receipts from Services (Value from ITR)" 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 and demanding Service Tax amounting to Rs. 39,56,018/- for the period FY 2014-15 and F.Y. 2015-16, 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; and imposition of penalties under Section 77 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. 39,56,018/- 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 & 2015-16. Further (i) Penalty of Rs. 39,56,018/- 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) of the Finance Act, 1994.

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

- **Cartage Income / Freight Income** – The appellant has Cartage Income (Freight Income) in the relevant year, Cartage Income (Freight Income) come under the purview of Notification No. 34/2004 - Service Tax

In exercise of the powers Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts the taxable service provided by a goods transport agency to a customer, in relation to transport of goods by road in a goods carriage, from the whole of service tax leviable thereon under section 66 of the said Act, where,-

- (i) *The gross amount charged on consignments transported in a goods carriage does not exceed rupees one thousand five hundred; or*
- (ii) *The gross amount charged on an individual consignment transported in a goods carriage does not exceed rupees seven hundred fifty.*

- Adding further, Cartage Income (Freight Income) also covered under the purview of Notification No. 30/2012 - Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012, wherein the Central Government notifies certain taxable services relating to extent of services tax payable and who is liable to pay service tax on those services. This Notification specifically includes services provided or agreed to be provided by a goods transport agency in respect of transportation of goods by road stating that the person receiving the service will be liable to pay 100% of service tax on services received from a GTA.



- As per Entry No: A(ii) of No.-30/2012, reverse charge is applicable only when taxable service provided or agreed to be provided by a goods transport agency in respect of transportation of goods by road, where the person liable to pay freight is,-
 - a) any factory registered under or governed by the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948);
 - b) any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860) or under any other law for the time being in force in any part of India;
 - c) any co-operative society established by or under any law;
 - d) any dealer of excisable goods, who is registered under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944) or the rules made there under;
 - e) anybody corporate established, by or under any law; or
 - f) any partnership firm whether registered or not under any law including association of persons;

Thus, the appellant providing Services which has been covered under above notification. Accordingly the Cartage income (Freight Income) earned in the year 2014-15 to 2017-18 has been exempt under Service Tax. **Therefore, assessee has not been registered under Service tax act, as he has not been liable to pay service tax.**

- The Applicant would like to inform that according to section 75(5) The proper officer shall, if sufficient cause is shown by the person chargeable with tax, grant time to the said person and adjourn the hearing for reasons to be recorded in writing: Provided that no such adjournment shall be granted for more than three times to a person during the proceedings and we have not received our opportunity of Third personal hearing letter from the department.
- As mention above under the GTA is exempt from service-tax liability so there is no need to get registered in the said act.
- Further Applicant has not received/ collected any service tax from any party , so there is no liability of service tax arises.



- Appellant would like to submit the fact that the applicant has not liable to pay Service Tax in the relevant financial year 2014-15 and 2015-16, under availment of benefit under section 66 of the said Act. Appellant would like to present that as appellant is not liable to pay service tax in the relevant financial year & appellant is also not liable for Interest under section 75 of Finance Act.
- The Appellants submit that for imposing penalty under Section 78(1) of the Act, there should be an intention to evade payment of service tax, or there should be suppression or concealment of material facts. The officer has imposed penalty under section 78 base on statement that, applicant has mis-stated the taxable value of the services provided/received by them and they have, knowingly and willfully not paid the correct amount of Service Tax leviable on such amount. However the Appellants at no point of time had the intention to evade service tax or suppressed any fact willfully from the knowledge of the Department. The Delhi Tribunal in case of Sainik Mining and Allied Services Ltd Vs Commissioner of S.T, Delhi [2019 (28) G.S.T.L. 156 (Tri. - Del.)] held that the question of imposition of penalty does not arise in case there is no positive act of suppression of facts or which may reflect any mala fide on assessee's part with intention of evading tax alleged.
- Based on the case law and fact as mentioned above, penalty under Section 78 of the Act can be imposed only if the applicant suppresses any information from the Department. However, in present case the appellant has not suppressed any fact from the Department. Therefore, penalty of Rs. 39,56,018/- under Section 78 of the Act cannot be imposed on the applicant in the present case.

4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 18.12.2023. Shri Kuldeep Prajapati, Chartered Accountant, appeared on behalf of the appellant for personal hearing. He reiterated submission made in appeal memorandum and stated that the appellant is GTA. So the recipient is liability to pay Service Tax as they are corporate. He also submitted Profit & Loss Account, Balance Sheet and recipient's ledgers.



5. Before taking up the issue on merits, I proceed to decide the Application filed seeking condonation of delay. As per Section 85 of the Finance Act, 1994, an appeal should be filed within a period of 2 months from the date of receipt of the decision or order passed by the adjudicating authority. Under the proviso appended to sub-section (3A) of Section 85 of the Finance Act, 1994, the Commissioner (Appeals) is empowered to condone the delay or to allow the filing of an appeal within a further period of one month thereafter if, he is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from presenting the appeal within the period of two months. Considering the cause of delay given in application as genuine, I condone the delay of 16 days and take up the appeal for decision on merits.

6. 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 periods F.Y. 2014-15 and F.Y. 2015-16.

7. I find that in the SCN in question, the demand has been raised for the periods FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 based on the Income Tax Returns filed by the appellant. **I further find that the order has been passed ex-parte.**

8. It is observed that the main contentions of the appellant are that the appellant is engaged in providing GTA service which is exempted under Notification No. 34/ 2004 –Service Tax dated 3rd December 2004 and Notification No. 30/2012 - Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012

9. 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. 30.11.2022,

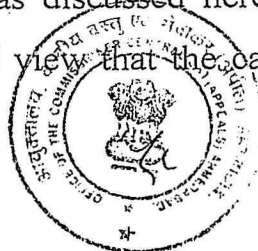


09.12.2022 and 23.12.2022. The appellant contended that they have not received their opportunity of third adjournment for personal hearing letter from the department.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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. 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.

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

14. 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.

J.C.J.
26/12/23
(ज्ञानचंद जैन)

आयुक्त (अपील्स)

Dated: 26th December, 2023

सत्यापित /Attested:

R.P.D.
(अमरेंद्र कुमार)

अधीक्षक(अपील्स)

केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अहमदाबाद

By RPAD / SPEED POST

To,

M/s. Kiran Harivadan Prajapati,

1783, Prajapati Vas/ Kumbhar Gali, Navi Pole,

Dolatkhana, Sarangpura,

Ahmedabad – 380001

Copy to :

- 1) The Principal Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad Zone
- 2) The Commissioner, CGST, Ahmedabad South
- 3) The Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division I, Ahmedabad South



- 4) The supdt(Systems) Appeals Ahmedabad, with a request to upload on Website,
- ✓ 5) Guard File
- 6) PA file



