

आयुक्त का कार्यालय  
Office of the Commissioner  
केंद्रीय जीएसटी, अपील अहमदाबाद आयुक्तालय  
Central GST, Appeals Ahmedabad Commissionerate  
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**By SPEED POST**

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(क)	फाइल संख्या / File No.	GAPPL/COM/STP/4554/2023 / 3067 - 71
(ख)	अपील आदेश संख्या और दिनांक / Order-In -Appeal and date	AHM-EXCUS-001-APP-312/2023-24 and 15.03.2024
(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	20.03.2024
(ङ)	Arising out of Order-In-Original No. 247/WS08/AC/KSZ/2022-23 dated 10.02.2023 passed by The Assistant Commissioner, Central GST, Division VIII, Ahmedabad South.	
(च)	अपीलकर्ता का नाम और पता / Name and Address of the Appellant	M/s Flowdriven Technologies Private Limited, A-2, Panchratna Appartment, B/h Pratiksha Complex, Mahalaxmi, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007

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, 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 :-

(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 के कच्चे माल 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 रूपये 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 2<sup>nd</sup> माला, बहुमाली भवन, असरवा, गिरधरनागर, अहमदाबाद-380004।

To the west regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at 2<sup>nd</sup> 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."





under Section 77(1) of the Act as well as penalty under Section 77(2), and penalty under 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. 1,56,960/- 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 FY 2015-16. Further (i) Penalty of Rs. 1,56,960/- was 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 Finance Act, 1994 and (iii) Penalty of Rs. 10,000/- under Section 77(2) of the Finance Act, 1994.

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

- No service tax liability during the F.Y. 2015-16, because of threshold exemption (small service provider) Notification No. 33/2012- ST dated 20/06/2012.
- Issuing SCN and confirming demand based on itr and 26as is liable to be quashed.
- Charge of suppression and invoking extended period not applicable.
- Confirming the demand without considering the fact that SCN and personal hearing letter had not been communicated to the appellant at all.
- Confirming the demand without giving proper opportunity of being heard to appellant which is violation of natural justice.
- Confirming the demand merely based on third party data without any verification or investigation of data.



- Confirming the demand merely based on assumption that amount declared in Income tax return becomes taxable under service tax despite the fact that appellant had provided services abroad which is outside the purview of service tax and remaining domestic services are well within the threshold exemption limit.
- Confirming the demand without considering benefit available to the appellant of threshold exemption (small service provider) as per the notification no. 33/2012-ST dated 20/06/2012.
- Confirming the demand of penalty for failure to obtain the Service Tax Registration despite the fact that appellant was eligible for threshold exemption throughout the period.
- Imposing the penalty of under Section 78(1), of the Finance Act, 1994 despite the fact is no suppression on the part of appellant.

Particulars	Amount in Rs.
Value declared in ITR based on which SCN issued and demand confirmed in OIO	10,82,488/-
Less: Export of services	7,36,099/-
Taxable value of service provided in F.Y. 2015-16	3,46,389/-
Less: Threshold Exemption (Upto Rs. 10,00,000/-)	3,46,389/-
Value on which service tax payable	NIL

4. Personal hearing in the case was held on 12.03.2024. Shri Keyur Kamdar and Shri Punit Prajapati, Chartered Accountants, appeared on behalf of the appellant. He stated that as per the independent auditor's report, the earning in foreign exchange is Rs. 7,36,099/- in 2015-16 and Rs. 6,37,019/- in 2014-15 (page no. 85). Hence he claimed that the appellant is eligible for threshold



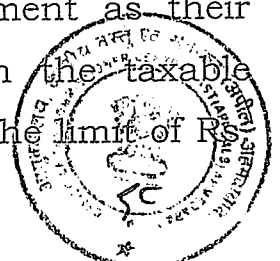
exemption of Rs. 10 lakhs and also the above earning is qualified as export of service in terms of Rule 6A of STR (Service Tax Rules).

5. 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 ex-parte 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 period from F.Y. 2015-16.

6. The adjudicating authority confirmed the demand of Service Tax in the impugned order ex-parte as the appellant had not appeared for submission reply against the SCN before the adjudicating authority. Upon reviewing the appellant's written submission at the time of Appeal Memorandum and oral submission made during personal hearing, I find that the appellant were engaged in the business of website development falling under Information Technology service and were providing export of service and domestic service. On the basis of Auditor's report for the F.Y. 2015-16 submitted by the appellant it is evident that the appellant are having consideration of income from export of service and from the service provided in India, the figures are given as under:

Type of service	F.Y. 2015-16	F.Y. 2014-15
Export of Service	7,36,389/-	6,37,019/-
Domestic Service	3,46,389/-	4,14,399/-
Total Income (impugned income)	10,82,488/-	10,51,418/-

7. I find that the appellant's contention is that they were not required to be registered with Service Tax department as their taxable income from providing service rendered in the taxable territory during the impugned period did not exceed the limit of Rs.



10 lakhs and hence the income was exempted from liability of service tax in the light of Notification No.33/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012. I also find that their taxable service income for the preceding F.Y. 2014-15 include also the income received from the service provided to the recipients in taxable territory as well as to the recipient outside Indian Territory i.e. Export of service. On the basis of auditor's report submitted by the appellant, I find that their income towards export of service is Rs. 6,37,019/- out of gross turnover of Rs. 10,51,418/- in F.Y. 2014-15 and as such their income from domestic service is Rs. 4,14,399/-, which is also below the threshold limit and therefore the appellant are eligible for taking the benefit of threshold exemption on income of Rs. 3,46,389/- for the F.Y. 2015-16 and therefore not liable to pay Service tax in terms of Notification No. 33/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 for F.Y. 2015-16. For ease of reference Notification No. 33/2012-ST dated 20th June, 2012 are produced, which read as under:

***Notification No. 33/2012 - Service Tax***

*\*\*\*\*\* the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts taxable services of aggregate value not exceeding ten lakhs rupees in any financial year from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon under section 66B of the said Finance Act:*

*(i).....*

*(ii)-----*

*(viii) the aggregate value of taxable services rendered by a provider of taxable service from one or more premises, does not exceed ten lakhs rupees in the preceding financial year.*

8. As regard to the income amounting to Rs. 7,36,389/- as shown in the above table in context of which the appellant have contested that this income pertains to Export of Service which are exempted under Rule 6A of the Service Tax Rule, 1994. For clarification extract of Rule 6A is reproduced as under:

*RULE 6A. (1) The provision of any service provided or agreed to be provided shall be treated as export of service when, -*

*(a) the provider of service is located in the taxable territory ,*





(b) the recipient of service is located outside India,

(c) the service is not a service specified in the section 66D of the Act, (d) the place of provision of the service is outside India,

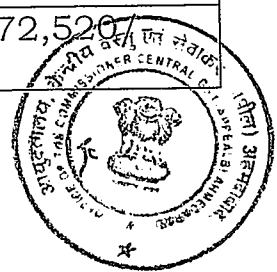
(e) the payment for such service has been received by the provider of Service in convertible foreign exchange; and

(f) the provider of service and recipient of service are not merely establishments of a distinct person in accordance with item (b) of 2 [Explanation 3] of clause (44) of section 65B of the Act

(2) Where any service is exported, the Central Government may, by notification, grant rebate of service tax or duty paid on input services or inputs, as the case may be, used in providing such service and the rebate shall be allowed subject to such safeguards, conditions and limitations, as may be specified, by the Central Government, by notification.]

9. In view of the above I find that the amount of 7,36,389/- in F.Y. 2015-16 was collected against the service in respect of Website development to the various foreign service recipient. I have gone through invoice copies regarding service rendered outside the territory of India submitted in support of the export of service. The details of income received from export of service are given as under:

Date	Customer Name	Amount (in Foreign Currency)	INR Amount
04-04-2015	Mihir Patel	65 AUD	3,074/-
07-07-2015	MAU LDA	140 USD	4,14,399/-
31-07-2015	Yamir Bhatt	570 USD	36,478
18-08-2015	Capstonefi	1000 USD	65,485/-
30-09-2015	Yamir Bhatt	1472 USD	96,431/-
06-10-2015	Khayejao	2000 USD	1,30,380/-
05-01-2016	Yamir Bhatt	1655 USD	1,10,123
20-01-2016	Capstonefi	4000 USD	2,72,520/-



02-03-2016	Yamir Bhatt	90 USD	6,062/-
17-03-2016	Yamir Bhatt	100 USD	6,653/-
	Total		7,36,099/-

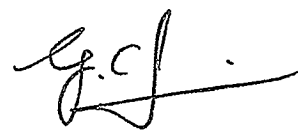
10. Looking to the evidences viz. Auditor's Report and invoices in support of their submission provided by the appellant, I find that the appellant, which are located in Taxable Territory are providing service, which are not specified in 66D of the Act to the recipient of service located outside India and for the service rendered by the appellant they were collecting payment in convertible foreign exchange.

10.1. In view of the above discussion I am of the opinion that the said amount of Rs. 7,36,099/- in F.Y. 2015-16 is only the consideration received on account of export of service rendered by the appellant, hence it is not under the purview of service tax liability as per Rule 6A of Service Tax Rules, 1994. The remaining amount of 3,46,389/- out of the impugned amount deem non-taxable income in terms of Notification No. 33/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 and accordingly, demand of service tax from the appellant is legally wrong and not sustainable. Since the demand of service tax is not sustainable on merits, there does not arise any question of interest or penalty in the matter.

11. Accordingly, in view of my foregoing discussions, I set aside the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority for being not legal and proper and allow the appeal filed by the appellant.

12. 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.



ज्ञानचंद जैन  
आयुक्त (अपील्स)

Date : 15-03-2024



Attested

*Amarendra Kumar*

(अमरेंद्र कुमार)  
अधीक्षक (अपील्स)

सी. जी. एस. टी, अहमदाबाद

**By RPAD / SPEED POST**

To,  
M/s. Flowdriven Technologies Private Limited,  
A-2, Panchratna Appartment,  
B/h Pratiksha Complex,  
Mahalaxmi, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007

**Copy to:-**

1. The Principal Chief Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad Zone.
2. The Principal Commissioner Central GST, Ahmedabad South.
3. The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, CGST, Division VIII, Ahmedabad South
4. The Supdt. (Appeals) Central GST, Ahmedabad South (for uploading the OIA).
5. Guard File.
6. P.A. File.



