

ORDER IN APPEAL :

The Commissioner, Central Excise, Rajkot (hereinafter referred to as "the department") filed present appeals No. (i) V2/4/EA7/RA1/2009; (ii) V2/5/EA2/RA1/2009 and (iii) V2/6/EA1/RA1/2009 against Orders-in-Original No. (i) 235/2008-09; (ii) 238/2008-09 and 237/2008-09 dt. dated 13.02.2009 (hereinafter referred to as "the impugned orders") respectively passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise Division, Gandhinagar (hereinafter referred to as "the sanctioning authority") in the matter of M/s. Gran Electronics Pvt. Limited, Survey No. 113, Village: Varsanadi Taluka: Anjar, District: Kutch (hereinafter referred to as "the respondent").

2. The brief facts of the case are that the respondent was operating in the District of Kutch, availing benefits of Notification No. 39/2001-CE dated 31.07.2001, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the said notification"). The said notification was amended vide Notification No. 16/2008-CE dated 27.03.2008 and Notification No. 32/2008-CE dated 10.06.2008, which altered the method of calculation of refund by taking into consideration of duty payable on value addition undertaken in the manufacturing process, by fixing percentage of refund ranging from 15% to 75% depending upon the intensity. The respondent filed claims for refund of Central Excise Duty, Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess for the months of September, 2008; October, 2008 and November, 2008 respectively. The sanctioning authority vide the impugned orders sanctioned the refund claims, pertaining to Basic Excise Duty, Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess.

3. Aggrieved with the impugned orders, the department preferred these appeals, inter-alia, on the grounds as under:

(i) Refund on the products namely (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CEIH 84501100); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 45W & 125W)(CEH 85011019/85015190) and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CEH 84503090) which were added/manufactured after 31.12.2005 is not admissible since the manufacture of the said products has not taken place before the cut off date according to Point No. 1 of Board's letter F. No. 116/21/2006-CX3 dated 10.07.2006; the respondent stated to have started production on 29.12.2005. It was that manufacture of said products has not taken place before the cut off date; as per the Board's clarification dated 10.07.2006, the respondent would be eligible for the benefit of the notification for the plant and machinery used for manufacture which has remained the same; the plant and machinery used for manufacture of the said products were never used before 31.12.2005, the cut off date and hence, these products do not attract the exemption under the said

not fiction, and

(ii) Refund of Education Loss in Secondary & Higher Education Case is not admissible since the sanctioning authority by Notification No. 39/2001 CE dated 31.07.2001, as amended, has not been challenged.

4. The appeal filed by the respondent on the ground that appeal has been filed by the department of Advocate in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against decision of the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in case of Bharat Box Factory Ltd. reported as 2010 (33) ELT 181 (SC). The decision of the Hon'ble High Court was approved by the Hon'ble High Court and recorded as 2017 (375) ELT 181 (SC). These orders have not been taken out of Call Book for passing appropriate orders. Person responsible for filing is the department appellant as well as respondent but no one specified on the given cases and hence, I proceed to decide these appeals pending since 2009 due to Call Book procedure.

Findings:

5. I have carefully gone through the files of the case, the impugned order, Appeal Memorandum filed by respondent, Memorandum of Cross Objections submitted by the respondents. The issues to be decided are

(i) whether the respondent is eligible for refund for products viz. (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CETH 84509105); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 45W & 125W) (CETH 850106/2/850105); and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CETH 84509090) manufactured after 31.12.2005 by the plant and machineries already installed before 31.12.2005; and

(ii) whether the respondent is eligible for refund of Education Loss and Secondary & Higher Education Case by the provisions of Notification No. 39/2001 CE dated 31.07.2001, as amended.

6. The sanctioning authority held that the products namely (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CETH 84509105); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 45W & 125W) (CETH 850106/2/850105); and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CETH 84509090) manufactured after 31.12.2005, were manufactured from the plant and machinery installed upto the cut off date i.e. 31.12.2005 but the commercial production of these items started after 31.12.2005 only.

6.1 I find that the said issue has been properly discussed by the Hon'ble CESTAT, Ahmedabad in case of Rashmi Metals and Tubes Ltd. reported as 2012 (2/6) ELT 291 (Tri. - Ahmed.), in which provisions of Notification No. 39/2001-CE has been discussed and it is held as under:

5. After carefully considering submissions made by both the sides, we find that there is no dispute about the fact that the goods in respect of which refund stands claimed by these appellants, were manufactured with machinery installed after 31-12-05. The notification, as aforesaid, is applicable to goods manufactured upto, which has been

the investment and started their production before 31-12-55, as such it can be reasonably concluded that the legislation intended to cover only those units in the above area, whereas the investment was completed by 31-12-55. The benefit of the said notification is being extended to the question as to what goods manufactured with the plant and machinery installed prior to the said date.

7. The question which arises is as to whether subsequent expansion of the unit by installing new machines after 31-12-55 would get covered by the said notification or not. Admittedly the second unit was installed after 31-12-55. If derived from another angle it can be reasonably assumed that the appellants have installed a second factory in the said area in the manufacture of the goods of the machines, instead of being installed in the same factory, would have been installed in a separate factory. The benefit of the notification was actually not available to the appellants. As such, merely because the second unit will stand installed in the same factory, which was earlier enjoying the exemption, would not result in grant of exemption to the second unit also.

8. Even if viewed from the provisions of the notification, it is clearly mentioned that the benefit of notification would be available in respect of those units which have been fully complete prior to 31-12-55 and has started their production prior to the said date. There is nothing in the said notification or relevant notification of the said date of 31-12-55 in respect of the subsequent investment of plant and machinery. As rightly contended by learned counsel, when the notifications are unambiguous and clearly lay down the conditions, the scope of the same cannot be extended by referring to the legislative intent. Such notifications are required to be interpreted in accordance with the words of the notification.

9. Even if we go by the legislative intent, the same becomes clear from the various orders and clarifications issued by the Government. The ITO letter No. 198/22702-1981 dated 17-12-51 addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Madras, regarding exemption notification issued by the Chief Commissioner against the Revenue's order for better appreciation, in regarding the clarification on case No. 41:-

Facts & Issue	Issue of ITO's Clarification	Observation
1. Whether the unit would be eligible for benefit of the exemption in respect of the goods manufactured after the cut off date subsequent to the commencement of the unit.	The reference in the notification being only to the original date of installation of plant and machinery of the unit, the commencement of commercial production subsequent thereto would not be relevant.	We agree. The intention was to exempt the goods of the original plant. Goods of subsequent machinery would not be eligible for exemption. The benefit of the exemption is available to a unit installed before 31-12-55.

10. Reference may be made to Circular No. 110-11/2006(Cus), dated 15-7-06. The relevant part of said circular clarifying the issue is as under:-

Point No. 1: Whether the benefit of exemption would be available in respect of units that start manufacturing after the cut off date for the commencement of commercial production i.e. 31-12-2005.

Response: There would be two situations. First is that where a unit commences a new product by installing fresh plant, machinery or capital goods after the cut off date. In such a situation, exemption would not be available to the new product. The said new product would be cleared on payment of duty, as applicable, and separate records would be required to be maintained to distinguish production of these products from the products which are eligible for exemption.

The other situation is the one where a unit starts producing same products (after the cut off date) using the plant and machinery installed prior to the cut off date and without any addition to the plant and machinery. For example, in case of textile mill which starts a self run conversion, the production of different products jointly by changing the mould and dies. In this case, the unit would be eligible for the benefit of notification inasmuch as the plant and machinery used for manufacturing the remains the same. In this connection, it is further clarified that for the purpose of computing the original value of plant and machinery, the value of plant and machinery installed on the date of commencement of commercial production only shall be considered.

11. Evidently the clarification issued by the said letter reflects upon the legislative intent that the benefit under the said notification is available to be restricted only to those units which have started commercial production or before 31-12-55 and the benefit would be extended to the products manufactured by installing fresh plant and machinery. To the similar effect is another letter written by ITO on 23rd April 2008 addressed to the Secretary General, Federation of Industries of India, Madras, that the benefit of the notification would not be available to those new industrial units which commence commercial production after 31-12-55.

In as much as the appellant has not already introduced a new method into the market after 31-12-05, though it has some machinery which were in use before the exemption, we are of view that the benefit of the notification would not be available to the appellant in as much as the object of the notification was to provide incentives for promotion of the rural area and to coincide with the budgetary scheme 31-12-05. Allowing of exemption in respect of subsequent machine is not allowed and the primary would defeat the very purpose of issuance of the notification and the budgetary scheme.

12. In view of the above, the findings are as follows:-

6.2 I find that after issuance of Notification No. 39/2001-CE dated 31.07.2001, clarifications issued 13.10.2001 and dated 10.07.2008 clarified the (the intention was to keep the operation of the scheme simple; that benefit of subsequent investments would not only complete the scheme, the quantum of benefit available to any unit would also keep changing; that the benefit of Notification No. 39/2001-CE would only be applicable to those new industrial units, which commence commercial production before 31.12.2005. In other words, if a new industrial unit commences commercial production after 31.12.2005, then such industrial unit was is not eligible to avail exemption under the said notification. Also, if commercial production of a particular product had not commenced on or before 31.12.2005, then the benefit of the said notification would not be available to such goods. It is also clarified that if any unit introduced, a new product by installing fresh plant, machinery or capital goods after the cut-off date, then exemption would not be available to that new product and the same would be cleared up payment of duty, as applicable, and separate records would be required to be maintained to distinguish production of those products from the products which were eligible for exemption. These clarifications were issued on the Notification No. 39/2001-Central Excise dated 31.07.2001 and are to be harmoniously read with the provisions of the said notification. Therefore, if the product (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CETH 84501100); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 15W & 125W) (CETH 85011019/85015190) and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (C.E.H. 84509080) were commercially produced/manufactured, after 31.12.2005, then the benefit of the Notification No. 39/2001-CE dated 31.07.2001, as amended, is not available to the appellant.

6.3 In view of the above, I find force in the argument of the department that the respondent was not eligible for refund for products namely (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CETH 84501100); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 15W & 125W) (CETH 85011019/85015190) and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CETH 84509080) manufactured after 31.12.2005 by use of plant and machinery installed before 31.12.2005. Therefore, the impugned orders sanctioning the refund for products namely (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CETH 84501100); (ii) Electric Motor (other than 15W & 125W) (CETH

85012010/85015190) and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CEH 34509090) are not correct and required to be set aside and i do so.

7. Regarding Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess, I find that the respondent's manufacturing unit situated in District of Kutch, availed benefit of exemption under Notification No. 39/2001-CE dated 31.07.2001, as amended. The said notification is reproduced as under:

Notes (Supra): — Exemption to certain goods (among them specified in Annexure) are shown from 10th to 14th District of Gujarat.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 54 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944) read with sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1956 (38 of 1956) and sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles and Textile Articles) Act, 1978 (95 of 1978), the Central Government being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts the goods specified in the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1956 (5 of 1956) other than goods specified in the Annexure appended to this notification and cleared from a unit located in Kutch district or Gujarat from so much of the duty of excise or the additional duty of excise, as the case may be, leviable thereon under any of the said Acts as is equivalent to the amount of duty and by the manufacturer of goods other than the amount of duty paid by utilization of CENVAT credit under the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004:

Provided that in the case of a unit having an original value of investment in plant and machinery installed in the factory before 1995 every year on the date of commencement of commercial production at that unit, the exemption provided herein shall apply only for the first clearance up to an aggregate value not exceeding twice the value of such investment from the date of commencement of commercial production, in each year.

1. The exemption contained in this notification shall be given effect to in the following manner, namely:

(a) The manufacturer shall submit a statement of the duty paid other than the amount of duty paid by utilization of CENVAT credit under the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004, to the Assistant Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, by the 10th day of the next month in which the duty has been so paid;

(b) The Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, after such verification, as he may deem necessary, shall refund the amount of duty paid other than the amount of duty paid by utilization of CENVAT credit during the month under consideration to the manufacturer by the 15th day of the next month;

(c) If there is likely to be any delay in such verification, the Assistant Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, shall refund the amount on provisional basis by the 10th day of the next month to the manufacturer notwithstanding, and thereafter may adjust the amount so refunded by such amount as may be necessary in the subsequent returns submitted by the manufacturer.

(Signature)

7.1 The Education Cess was levied vide of Sections 91 to 93 of Chapter VI of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004, which read as under:

(1) Education Cess - (i) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 2, there shall be levied and collected in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter as charges for purposes of the Union, a cess to be called the Education Cess, to be levied on the amount of the Government or provided and financed university quality secondary education.

(2) The Central Government may give the appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, unless such sums of money of the Education Cess levied under and section (1) of section 2 and this Chapter for the purposes specified in sub-section (1), as it may provide otherwise.

(3) Definition. — The words and expressions used in this Chapter and defined in the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) or Chapter 7 of the Finance Act, 1994 (12 of 1994), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in those Acts or Chapter, as the case may be.

(4) Education Cess on excisable goods. — (i) The Education Cess levied under section (1), in the case of goods specified in the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act,

1944 (No. 2) 1944), being goods or excisable commodities such as a duty of excise (in this section referred to as "the Education Tax") levied on goods at the rate of two per cent calculated on the aggregate of all duties of excise (including special duty of excise or any other duty of excise levied and collected by the Central Government) which are levied and collected on the goods in question, in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) under the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) or under any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The Education Tax on excisable goods shall be in addition to any other duties of excise chargeable on such goods under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) or any other law for the time being in force.

(3) The provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) and the rules made thereunder, including those relating to returns and exemptions from duties and imposition of penalty shall, so far as they may apply in relation to the levy and collection of the Education Tax on excisable goods in the State of Assam, be in force and collection of the duties of excise on such goods under the Central Excise Act, 1944 or the rules made thereunder, as the case may be.

7.2 The Secondary and Higher Education Tax was levied vide Sections 136 to 138 of Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2007 which reads as under:

136. Secondary and Higher Education Tax - (1) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 9, there shall be levied and collected, in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and any laws for purposes of the Union, a tax to be called the Secondary and Higher Education Tax, to fulfil the commitment of the Government to provide and finance secondary and higher education.

(2) The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, utilise such sums of money of the Secondary and Higher Education Tax levied under sub-section (1) of section 9 and this Chapter for the purposes specified in sub-section (1) as it may consider necessary.

137. Definition - The words and expressions used in this Chapter and defined in the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944), the Customs Act, 1957 (57 of 1957) or Chapter VI of the Finance Act, 2004 (22 of 2004), shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in those Acts or defined in the said Act.

138. Secondary and Higher Education Tax on excisable goods - (1) The Secondary and Higher Education Tax levied under section 9, in the case of goods specified in the First Schedule to the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) being goods manufactured or produced, shall be a duty of excise (in this section referred to as the Secondary and Higher Education Tax on excisable goods), at the rate of one per cent, calculated on the aggregate of all duties of excise (including special duty of excise or any other duty of excise levied and collected under section 95 of the Finance Act, 2004 (22 of 2004) and Secondary and Higher Education Tax on excisable goods) which are levied and collected by the Central Government in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) under the provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) or under any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The Secondary and Higher Education Tax on excisable goods shall be in addition to any other duties of excise chargeable on such goods under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) or any other law for the time being in force and the Education Tax chargeable under section 95 of the Finance Act, 2004 (22 of 2004).

(3) The provisions of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) and the rules made thereunder, including those relating to returns and exemptions from duties and imposition of penalty shall, so far as they may be applicable, apply to the levy and collection of the Secondary and Higher Education Tax on excisable goods as they apply in relation to the levy and collection of the duties of excise on such goods under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (2 of 1944) or the rules made thereunder, as the case may be.

7.3 Thus, the Education Tax and Secondary & Higher Education Tax were in nature of surcharge and were levied under Section 91 of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 and Section 126 of the Finance Act, 2007 respectively as duty of excise at the rate of 2% and 1% respectively to be calculated on the aggregate of all duties of excise, which are levied and collected by the Central Government. The provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder, including those relating to refunds and exemptions from duties and imposition of penalty were made

applicable to the levy and collection of the Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess on excisable goods as they apply in relation to the levy and collection of the duties of excise on such goods under the Act.

7.4 I find that Notification No. 35/2001-CE dated 31.07.2001 had granted total (100%) exemption from levy of excise duty by way of refund/credit of excise duty. Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess were levied on excise duty and when the levy of excise duty itself was exempted by way of refund/credit, then the Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess also got exempted thereby. In absence of Central Excise duty, the question of levy of any surcharge or cess or whatever name is called thereon would not arise. CBEC vide Letter F. No. 345/2/2004-TRU(Pt.) dated 10.08.2004 also clarified that Education Cess is part of excise duty. The relevant portion is as under:

Letter F. No. 345/2/2004 TRU(Pt.), dated 10.8.2004

Ranjit

The undersigned is directed to state that subsequent to Budget 2004 announcements a number of questions/concerns have been received from the trade as well as from the field formations regarding the imposition of Education Cess on excisable goods and on imported goods. The queries asked and the clarifications therein are as follows:

Issue No. (1) : Whether Education Cess on excisable goods is leviable on goods manufactured prior to imposition of Cess but cleared after imposition of such cess?

Clarification : Education Cess on Excisable goods is a new levy. In similar cases, it has been held by the Supreme Court that if a levy is not there at the time the goods are manufactured or produced in India, it cannot be levied at the stage of removal of the said goods. Thus, Education Cess is not leviable on excisable goods manufactured prior to imposition of revised, amended/modified levy of such cess.

Issue No. (2) : Whether goods that are fully exempted from excise duty/excise duty or are cleared without payment of excise duty/excise duty (such as clearance under bond or advance of goods etc.) would be subjected to Cess?

Clarification : The Education Cess is leviable on the rate of five percent of the percentage of all duties of an excisable goods/merchandise at the time of removal. The said goods which are fully exempted from excise duty or clearance duty, are exemptable to all duty or are cleared without payment of duty under various provisions, such as clearance under bond, there is no collection of such duty, no education cess being so leviable on such merchandise. In this regard, letter D.O. No. 355/2/2004-TRU, dated 21st July, 2004 issued by Member (Operations) may also be referred to.

Issue No. (3) : Whether goods (like alcoholic beverages) that do not fall under the Central Excise Tax are subjected to levy of Education Cess on excisable goods (as per section 27) when they are imported into India?

Clarification : As the Education Cess on excisable goods is leviable on goods specified in the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, goods like alcoholic beverages that are not specified are not subjected to the said cess.

Issue No. (4) : Whether duties/cesses which either are collected as duty of central excise or are collected as such by a Department other than Department of Revenue, should be included for the purposes of calculation of Education Cess?

Clarification : As the Education Cess is leviable on the aggregate duties of an excisable goods/merchandise at the time of removal, the accordingly duty, such goods should be included for the purposes of calculation of Education Cess. Only such duties, which are levied and collected as duties of excise/excise duty and which are levied and collected by the Department of Revenue should be taken into account for calculation of Education Cess.

(Emphasis supplied)

7.5 CBEC vide Circular No. 131/3/2015T dated 08.04.2011 again clarified

that since Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess were levied and collected as percentage of turnover on Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess would be leviable, direct and turnover service tax is nil by virtue of exemption. The principle was laid down in context of service tax matter but the principle was accepted in principle in the record and hence would apply in the present case also. Order No. 3403/2011/ST dated 08.04.2011 is reproduced as under:

7.6 In view of above, Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess were part of the Central Excise duty but since the central excise duty was exempted by way of refund, Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess would also be exempted by way of refund. This view finds support from the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of SRD Materials Pvt. Ltd. reported as 2017 (255) ELT 281 (SC), wherein it has held that:


(emphasis supplied)

7.7 In view of above, I hold that the respondent is eligible for refund of Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess.

8. Accordingly, I uphold the Impugned orders and reject appeals related to Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Education Cess in respect of the products where refund has already been allowed by the sanctioning authority. However, I allow appeals related to refund for products namely, (i) Fully Automatic Washing Machine (CEH 84500190), (ii) Electric Motor (other than 45W & 125W) (CEH 85011019/85015190) and (iii) Parts of Washing Machine (CEH 84506090), commercial production of which started after 31.12.2005 only and set aside the Impugned orders in this regard and order for recovery of the refund of the duty granted to the respondent on these products.

९ डिपार्टमेंट द्वारा दिये गये उत्तरों पर संशोधन करके ला रिप्लाय उत्तरों का प्रतिकरे दे दिया जा रहा है।

9. The appeals filed by the Department are disposed off as above.


 (कुमार शैलीम)
 अधीक्षक (अंतरिक्ष)

By Scans Post AD
IC,

The Commissioner, CEST & Central Excise, बॉम्बे स्ट्रीट एवं नैशनल एक्स प्रो. एंड टैक्स, 401/1 Commissionerate, कॉम्प्लेक्स, गंधीवाड़ा, Gandhidham
 M/s. Gen Electronics Pvt. Limited, गे. जन इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स प्रा. लि., दफ. नं. ११६ नॉर्थ
 Survey No. 113, Village: Varsandi, बरसाडी, तालुका, अहमदाबाद, जिला, ३८००४८.
 Taluka: Anjar, District: Kutch

Copy to:

- 1) The Chief Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone, Ahmedabad for his kind information please.
- 2) The Assistant Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise, Division-Arjar, Gandhidham for further necessary action.
- 3) Guard File.
- 4) F. No. V2/5/PA2/RAJ/2006
- 5) F. No. V2/6/PA2/RAJ/2006