

GROUND IN APPEAL

167. For the copy of the P.I.L. No. 50/19/2011-GP (II) dated 10/01/2011 against the order (hereinafter referred to as "the impugned order") filed by the appellant against the CIO No. C/1/19/2010 (AB-2/2015) dated 27/01/2011 & CIO No. 05 to 26/5/2011 (AB-2/2015) dated 10/01/2011 (hereinafter referred to as "the impugned order") passed by the Superintendent, Central Excise, Hyderabad (hereinafter referred to as "the adjudicating authority"), Revenue, Hyderabad (hereinafter referred to as "the said appeals are being taken in conformity of this single order).

168. Briefly stated, the facts are that six Show Cause Notices during the period from 02.03.2012 to 29.10.2015 were issued to the appellants alleging that:

- During the period from February, 2011 to July, 2011 & August, 2014 to July, 2015 the appellants had wrongfully availed of 100% Credit (rate being ranging to Rs.2,01,285/- & Rs. 37, 14/-) of service tax paid on outward transport services;
- Goods services, being used for transportation of finished goods beyond the place of removal, were not services in the definition of that service, as defined under Rule 20(a) of 1992 GST Credit Rules, 2004.
- Goods were transported to the products & a 100% input tax credit activity;
- Goods were transported by/through the goods Notification No. 13/2011 (N.T. 1) dated 01.08.2011 by which the words "occurrence of final products at the place of removal" have been replaced by the words "presence of final products at the place of removal";
- The decrease in the factory gate price of the goods, as defined under section 44(d) of the Central Excise Act, 1944;
- Accordingly, the combined bearing of above Rules/Notification, credit transaction is not allowed to the appellants;
- Freight charges incurred from the place of removal at the end of all lines, should constitute the possession value of excisable goods;
- If the said fact has taken place, the destination point is beyond of the said manufacturing cement, the credit of the service tax paid on the transport up to such place of sale would be a liability, if it can be established by the said party of such credit that the sale and the transport of property or goods occurred at the place.

169. The said Show Cause Notices, therefore, demanded 100% Credit wrongly availed and allowed along with interest and other charges if paid to them the appellants.

170. The Adjudicating authority, vide the process of Show Cause Notices, has also demanded of wrongly availed of 100% Credit along with interest, penalty and imposed local cesses thereon on the appellants.

171. Feeling aggrieved, the appellants filed the present appeals on the following grounds:-

- The transactions are on FCY basis and therefore in view of the settled law, the transactions can very well be said to not been completed if the customers have not. The Hon'ble High Court as well as the Hon'ble Appellate authorities have set the law so that if the transactions are on FCY basis, the place of removal could be the place of the sale and if premises, when the appellants, as a way of producing party receipts, ledger accounts, contracts etc. has provided before court that the transactions were on FCY basis, so, therefore the credits should be given;

(Signature)

- Earlier writ of SCR dated 16.12.2014 was adjudicated vide C.O dated 21.02.2015 and appealed but after considering the facts and the relevant conditions was set aside with a direction to allow the credit if the transactions are found to be on FOB basis. Meanwhile another SCR was also issued to the appellants on the identical issue, but the same was also set aside & confirmed by the Commissioner (Appeals).
- In case of *M/s. Apollo Auto Industries Pvt. Ltd.* (where in the writ of SCR, Ahmedabad held that if the transaction are on FOB basis i.e. on FOB service, i.e. goods an outward transportation is available even after the arrival of the goods at the place of removal of the goods i.e. input service' after 01.04.2004.
- The department had full knowledge of the fact or circumstances, therefore the proviso to Section 11A(1) is not attracted and consequently the credit is to be allowed by the taxmen.

5. The appeals were filed before the Commissioner (Appeals), Raichur. The undersigned has been nominated as Commissioner (Appeals) / Appellate Authority as regards to the case at Raichur vide Ministry Order No. 33/2017-Service Tax dated 16.11.2017 issued by the Under Secretary (Service Tax), C.O., I.A.O.F., Dept. of Revenue, CBEC, Service Tax Wing on the basis of Board's Circular No. 206/6/2017-Service Tax dated 27.10.2017.


6. Personal hearing was granted to the appellant on 22.03.2015, wherein Shri Ramesh R. Seth, Advocate appeared on behalf of the appellant and reiterated the same as mentioned in his appeal memorandums. He also submitted that the credit of service tax paid was an input service in view of the various decisions and the clarification issued by the CBEC, and that the issue under consideration was disputable and the learned Assessing Officer as well as the judicial authority were in favour of the assessee and therefore it cannot be said that there was an intention to evade payment of duty. He also related the following decisions:

- *ITC Ltd. vs. I.T. (Bangalore)*, examined in 2007 (51) 573 104 (Trib. Bangalore),
- *CCB, Hyderabad vs. Pakarna Ltd.*, as reported in 2011 (292) 21 324 (Trib. Bangalore),
- *Madras Camoyle Ltd. vs. Adal. CCL, Bangalore*, as reported in 2015 (40) 5 4 142 (Trib.)

7. I have carefully gone through the facts of case, the grounds mentioned in the appeals and the submissions made by the appellant. It is to be decided only if the appeals is whether the appellant is eligible for the CENVAT credit of the service tax paid on outward transportation of goods or otherwise.

8. I find that the definition of 'input service' as provided under Rule 2(a) of the CENVAT, 2004 means a service used by the manufacturer, whether directly or indirectly, in or in relation to the manufacture and clearance of final products up to the place of removal, and outward transportation upto the place of removal. From the aforesaid definition, I find that the service should be used by the manufacturer which has direct or indirect relation with the manufacture or clearance of final products upto the place of removal and also the nature restricts the outward transportation upto the place of removal.

9. I also find that the place of removal has been defined under Explanation (c) to Section 4(1) of the Central Excise Act, 1944, as reading as follows: "Place of Removal" means the place or any other place or premises of production or manufacture of the excisable goods, or warehouse or any other place or premises wherein the excisable goods have been permitted to be disposed without payment of duty, a depot premises of a consignment agent or any other place or premises from where the excisable goods are to be shipped to their ultimate destination, from where such goods are not shipped."



10. I also find that the Board, vide Circular No. 9/79/2007 dt. dated 27.09.2007 has clarified the issue regarding admissibility of the CENVAT credit in respect of service tax paid on the goods transported. The relevant text in Para 2(f) of said circular reads as under:

"However, there may be situations where the transporter/consignor may claim that the service tax paid, on any of the destination poles because in terms of the sale, whether direct or (i) the ownership of goods is to be accepted, on the goods removed or in the case of the goods to be sold by the issuer, or a receipt is issued to the transporter at the time of the sale, then the tax of lot of or damage to the goods being treated as the destruction, and (ii) the transporter is an integral part of the sale of goods. In such cases, the credit of the service tax paid on the transportation up to such place of sale would be admissible if it can be established by the issuer of such receipt that the sale and the transfer of property in goods in terms of the definition under Section 2 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 is also in terms of the definition under the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 contained in the said receipt."

11. I find that the aforesaid Circular was modified by the Board, vide Circular No. 9/97/2007 dated 28.12.2007 issued from D.No.75740/2013-14. The relevant portion of the circular reads as under:-

2(f) The operative part of the Circular in each the aforesaid cases under objection and are unamended. They commonly state that the place where sale takes place is the place of removal. The place where sale has taken place is the place where the transfer of property of goods takes place from the seller to the buyer. This can be decided as per the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 as held by Hon'ble Tribunal in case of Associated Sales and Commission agents (supra) case, New Delhi (2001) 111 ITR 221. Similarly this is held by Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of ITC Eminent (supra) case, New Delhi (2007) 137 ITR 511 (S.C.).

4) Instances have come to notice of the Board where on the basis of the claims of the transporter/consignor/transporter or who bears the cost of insurance, the place of removal was decided without consideration of the place where transfer of property in goods has taken place. This is in violation from the Board's circular and is also contrary to the legal position of the law.

5) It may be noted that there are some well laid rules regarding the time when property in goods is transferred from the buyer to the seller in the Sale of Goods Act, 1930 which may be referred to paragraph 14 of the aforesaid Circular (para 1) reproduced below for ease of reference:-

14. However, we have to consider the facts of the case in order to determine whether the transfer of possession of the goods in the instant case is when the property in the goods pass from the seller to the buyer. Is it or the former party as stated by the appellant or is it of the place of the transfer as alleged by the Revenue? In this regard, it is necessary to refer to certain provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, Section 25 of the said Act provides that when there is a contract for the sale of specific or ascertained goods the property in them is transferred to the buyer or retention as the parties in the contract intend it to be transferred. Intention of the parties are to be ascertained with reference to the terms of the contract, the conduct of the parties and the circumstances of the case. Where a contract is intended appears, the rules contained in sections 29 to 34 are provisions for ascertaining the location of the goods, as to the place where the property in the goods is to pass to the buyer, in particular where there is a contract for the sale of unascertained or future goods by description and goods of that description and in a bulk until some one has been ascertained to be appropriated to the contract, either by the seller and the buyer or by the buyer with the consent of the seller, the property in the goods thereupon passes to the buyer. Intention may be expressed or implied and may be given either before or after the appropriation is made. But section 23 or section 24 shall be observed and where, in pursuance of the contract, the seller delivers the goods in the bulk or in a certain weight under a particular

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incurred by the buyer or part for the purposes of transportation to his place and does not reserve the right of disposal. He is treated as having conditionally appropriated the goods to the buyer."

51. It is reiterated that the place of removal needs to be ascertained by application of Section 24(a) and 24(b) read with provisions of the Sale of Goods Act, 1930. Payment of freight, insurance or transit charges or making payment of insurance or when bears the risk and the relevant considerations to ascertain the place of removal. The place where risk has taken place or when the property in goods passes from the seller to the buyer is the relevant consideration to determine the place of removal."

52. In view of the above, I find that the availability of C/10001 Credit in respect of the goods has not been established. It can be seen from the evidence that the appellant has failed to establish that the sale and the transfer of property in goods occurred at said place. This can be decided as per the provisions of Section 24 of Sale of Goods Act, 1930 which are reproduced as under:

"Whereby goods when situated in India

(1) Where there is a contract for the sale of specific or ascertained goods the property in them is transferred to the buyer at such time as the parties to the contract intend it to be transferred."

(2) For the purpose of ascertaining the intention of the parties regard shall be had to the terms of the contract, the conduct of the parties and the circumstances of the case."

(3) Unless a different intention appears, the rules contained in sections 20 to 24 are rules for ascertaining the intention of the parties as to the time at which the property in the goods is to pass to the buyer."

53. In this regard, I find that though the appellant has produced a copy of contracts, invoices, bills, receipts, & ledger account etc. in some of the transactions are substantially in conformity with transactions were on FOB basis, yet such nature of transaction by itself as well as these documents, produced by the appellant, does not conclusively prove the fact of when the sale has taken place or when the property in goods passed from the seller to the buyer. I also agree with the adjudicating authority that "T.C.R. (Free on Road)" is a term used in commercial parlance which means only a mere that the consignor agrees to arrange for transportation of goods to the destination point and hence, can be viewed as a term of delivery, which, per se, cannot be viewed as a relevant and decisive factor to establish liability of C/10001 Credit in relation with transportation. I also find that the appellant has merely acted as an arranger of transportation facility on behalf of the customers and paid some transport charges to the transporter. But, it does not mean that the sale has taken place or the property in goods passed from the seller to the buyer, at the destination i.e. buyer's place.

54. In this regard, the appellant has argued that the adjudicating authority has erred in confirming the evidence on the ground that the documentary evidences submitted along with the submission does not prove beyond doubt that the transactions are on FOB basis and the allegation in Para 33 (Para 20 of the first order) is also improper and bad in law and is liable to be set aside. However, the appellant has failed to explain as to how the findings of the adjudicating authority are bad in law.

55. I also find that the burden to prove the place of removal is that of the appellant, and according to both the aforesaid orders dated 23.05.2007 & 28.10.2014, the appellant was required to establish as to terms or conditions of the contract of the sale to ascertain whether the sale has taken place or property in goods passed from the appellant to its buyers/customers at such other place other than factory gate. In this regard, though the appellant has obtained copy of agreement with some of the customers and claimed that agreements in respect of sales of the customers are intended to add in favour of appellant. However, the

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adjudicating - Courts has held that this is not the case where some random dealers would utilize the purchase to explain their store, that in many cases, the goods have been supplied based on transactions, past an perusal of some purchase orders, place of delivery of the goods in a certain channel. In view of the above, I do not hesitate to hold that the appellant has failed to discharge its burden to claim eligibility of CENVAT credit. Accordingly, I do not find any merit in both the appeals.

16. I do not agree with the appellant's view, raised as grounds of appeal that while determining the interest received, the payment used for transport, inclusion of interest charges on such payment and its name on bank account and not the receipt in consideration of supply of CENVAT credit for outward transportation, is a mandatory requirement. The appellant to prove that the sale has taken place or property in goods passed from the appellant to its buyers/customers at some other place other than its factory, which the appellant has failed to do as evidenced by foregoing paras.

17. Regarding the argument of appellant that the appellant has disclosed the nature of the important machinery and materials and the sale and the transfer of a quantity in purchase and sale buyers place, they are not applicable in the present case.



18. In view of the above, I do find that once the credit is held to be inadmissible, the penalty is also not available from the appellant in this regard. The appellant argues that the issue under consideration was disputed, that it had to file a Return as well as the physical receipts was in favour of the appellant and therefore it could not be said that there was an attempt to evade payment of duty. I do not agree with the contention of the appellant in as much as it is going through my assessed findings, it is clear that the nature of removal cannot be taken as an assessee's plain denial, it is same and has created the conditions of the provision of Central Excise Act, 1944 and rules framed there under. The appellant has also failed to comply with the requirements as shown in both the alternate demands dated 28.10.2010 & 20.10.2011, as discussed in findings. Accordingly, the appellant is liable for penalty under section 16 of CENVAT Credit Rules, 2004.

19. In view of the above, I disallow both the appeals filed by the appellant by awarding the impugned orders.

20. The amount held by the appellant stores disposed off in assess terms.

3/11/2013

 J. K. Singh
 Joint Commissioner


 Dr. Baljit Singh
 Additional Deputy Commissioner


CG/151 & 152/2013
 (J) (P) (2)

Date: 20/11/2013

To,
 M/s. Parth Path Builders Pvt. Ltd.,
 Plot No. 19/19/2, Old B.,
 3905 382, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone,
2. The Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise, Jaipur,
3. The Commissioner (Appeals), Jaipur,
4. The Additional Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Jaipur, Jaipur Zone - Jaipur,
5. The Additional Joint Commissioner, Systems, CGST, Jaipur;
6. Record file.