

:- ORDER-IN-APPEAL :-

M/s. K.F.G. Enterprises, Plot No. 81 Along Ship Breaking Yard, Aung, Dist : Bhanuagar (hereinafter referred to as 'Appellant No. 1') and Shri Rakeesh Kumar Hansa-Partiar of Appellant No. 1 (hereinafter referred to as 'Appellant No.2') filed appeals against Order-In-Original No: 0634/AC/HU/RALEVR/3R/2016 dt. dated 11.01.2017 (hereinafter referred to as 'the impugned order') passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise, Rural Division, Bhavnagar (hereinafter referred to as 'the lower adjudicating authority'). Since, the issue involved in both the appeals are similar and same issues are being taken up commonly in this single order.

2. Briefly stated, the facts are that :-

(i) The AUC rightly noticed that the appellants had availed CENVAT credit of Rs. 2,13,11,247/- on 05.09.2014 i.e. 85% of the CVD as per restriction contained with Notification No. 3/2011 CE(KT) dated 07.03.2011 in respect of Bill of Entry No. SHY12022014-15 dated 05.07.2014 filed on the name of vessel namely MV 'Golder' and the same was reflected in the Cenvat credit account in their monthly return for the month of August 2014. However, the appellants again availed Cenvat credit of Rs. 9,47,563/- of CVD on the basis of two keel prepared by them in respect of above referred Bill of Entry and had taken credit of duty assessed considering bunker (fuel & oil) contained in the Tanks engine room as classified under Chapter 2710030. The Appellants have taken such credit, keeping reliance upon the High Court judgment: (2013(1) TMI 322- Gujarat High Court- 2013 (298) ELTS/7(Ct.)-CE- Customs Gold Control Reference No. 14 of 2014 dated 03.07.2012 in the case of M/s Priya Holding (P) Ltd. wherein the bunkers containing oil were to be treated as part of the vessel's machinery and were classifiable under Heading No. 83101 of the schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

The appellants no.1 has availed Cenvat credit of additional duty of Customs (CVD) amounting to Rs.1,44,020/- paid on Fuel Oil, M.G.C. (H.S.D. Oil) & Lubr Oil not classifying under Chapter 27100300 and utilized the same.

The said Cenvat credit availed by the Appellants no.1 on the basis of a 'work-sheet showing details of differential duties' prepared by themselves attached to the Bill of Entry No. SHY12022014-15 filed on the input of vessel namely "MV Golder" and it was alleged that the appellants no.1 had availed cenvat credit under dispute was on the basis of improper verifiable documents by contravening the provisions of Rule 9(1)(c) of the Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 and accordingly the appellants no.1 had been issued show cause notice dated 23.12.2016 by the Additional Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Audit III, Rajkot.

(ii) Subsequently, on the basis of information received that the appellants no.1

Sd/-

was wrongly availed Central credit of the additional duty of customs (CMD) paid on Fuel oil, MGO (HSD Oil) & Lub oil contained in the ship imported for breaking purpose. An inquiry conducted and statement of Sri Rakesh Kumar Bansal, Partner of the appellant No.1 (appellant No.2) recorded on 23.02.2015, On scrutiny of the documents produced by the appellant no.2, it was noticed that in ER-1 return for the month of December 2014, an amount of Rs.644,828/- was declared against the 'Details of Central credit' taken on goods on imported basis which was fully utilized by February 2015 leaving Nil balance of Central credit. The appellant No.2 in his statement clearly agreed that immediately after unloading of a vessel at their ship breaking plant, all the fuels & oils were removed from the vessel and sold out without storing the same and the same were not used in the process of obtaining goods and materials by breaking up of ship, but were directly sold in the open market.

On the basis of investigation carried out including statement of appellant no.2 dated 22.03.2015 it was noticed that the appellant no.1 had wrongly availed central credit of Rs. 44,809/- in violation of provisions of Rule 3 read with Rule 2(i) of the Central Credit Rules, 2004 and accordingly show cause notice No W15-27/Denit-10/2015-17 dated 03.09.2015 was issued by the Joint Commissioner, Central Excise, J.O., Bhanuagar.

(ii) With reference to both the abovementioned show cause notices, the order adjudicating authority vide the impugned order confirmed the demand of central credit of Rs. 44,809/- raised vide SCN no. W15-27/Denit-10/2015-17 dated 05.09.2015 under the provisions of Rule 14 of Central Credit Rules, 2004 read with Section 11A(4) of the Central Excise Act, 1944. Imposed equivalent amount of demand as penalty upon the appellant no.1 under the provisions of Rule 11(2) of Central Credit Rules, 2004 read with Section 11A(C) of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and also imposed personal liability of Rs.5,000/- upon appellant no.2 under the provisions of Rule 11A of Central Credit Rules, 2004. Since same amount of Central Credit can be demanded twice against the appellant no.1, therefore dropped the proceedings initiated vide show cause notice no. W15-27/Denit-10/2015-17 dated 03.09.2015. Being aggrieved with the impugned order the appellants have filed the present appeals.

2. The appellants have filed the present appeals on the following grounds:-

(i) Impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority is not proper and legal as the same has been passed by ignoring the provisions of Section 4 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and in as much as none of the submissions, made by the appellants in its written replies dated 07.03.2015, 03.10.2015 & 02.12.2015 have been considered (ii) The appellants have relied upon the decision of the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in the case of M/s. Priya Holding (P) Ltd. Vs Commissioner of Customs, as reported in 2013 (200) ELT 347 (GU) wherein it is clearly held that 'Bunkers lying inside the engine room are

classifiable under chapter heading 8508 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and not under chapter 27 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. This view has also been taken by the CGFT vide their letter F.No./PC/4/2016/487/82/70 2(A) dated 20.03.2016. In view of this they have worked out the duty liability by considering the above mentioned settled law. That the appellant before availing the central credit under dispute has vide their letter dated 17.03.2016 clarified the grounds that dispute central credit had been taken on the basis of Bill of entry read with the paid up Chalan read with the declaration mentioned on the reverse page of the relevant Bill of Entry, therefore had legally availed the central credit under dispute under the provisions of Rule 3 of the Central Credit Rules, 2004; they had availed central credit under dispute on the bunkers lying inside the engine room which was classified under chapter 39.02 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 read with Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 and also filed declaration in the bill of entry that they would avail normal credit of the goods falling under chapter 09.01 of the said Tariff Act, accordingly the said fuels & oils were nothing but the 'oil input' as specified under Rule 2(k) of the Central Credit Rules, 2004; the proper document was the bill of entry read with working out duty liability of such bunkers under chapter no.09.01 instead of chapter 27 and accordingly such bunkers was the 'oil input' for availing of such central credit as provided under provisions of Rule 3(1)(vi) of the Central Credit Rules. The appellant have relied upon the various citations viz. (i) Mangalore Steel Ltd vs CCE – 107 ELT 32 (Karn. HC, DBI, 2006 (229) ELT 451(SC); (ii) Kerala State Electric Corporation vs CCE – 1698 (Karn. HC) ELT 44; (iii) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd vs CCE – 2400 (2005) ELT 525; (iv) KCH Electric Ltd vs CCE Fardabad 1 – 2016 (244) ELT 409 (Tri. Chan) & (v) CCE vs GMS Computers – 2005 (192) ELT 2016C-3 (Member Bench) & (vi) S. Kumara Ltd. vs CCE (2007) 211 ELT 124 (CESTAT).

4. The personal hearing in the matter was held on 25.01.2016 and again on 20.02.2016 which was attended by Shri N.K. Mann, Consultant (Authorised Representative) on behalf of the appellant No. 1 & 2. He has reiterated the submission made in the appeal memorandum and earlier written submission made vide their letter dated 01.03.2016 with a request to decide appeal accordingly.

5. In pursuance of Board's Notification No.20/2017 C Ex.(NT) dated 17.10.2017 read with Board's Order No.05/2017 ST dated 18.11.2017, the instant appeals have been taken on hand for passing Order-in-Appeal.

6. It is to be noted that in case of instant appeal, the impugned order was received by the appellants on 12.01.2017 and date of filing of appeals is 17.03.2017. Hence, the appeals have not been filed within the stipulated time period and there is delay of 3 days in filing the appeals. However, the appellants have made request for condonation of delay and reason described thereof appeared to be genuine hence I condoned the delay under Section 35(1) of the Central Excise Act, 1944. The condition of pre-deposit also stand fulfilled.



7. I have gone through the impugned order, appeal memorandum and written submissions made by the appellants. The issue to be decided in the present appeal is whether Central Credit of Rs. 6,44,855/- availed on the CVD paid on fuel oil, Marine Gas Oil (MGO), Lubricant, classified under Chapter 27120000 by the appellant no.1 is correct or otherwise and whether interest thereon and penalty imposed vide impugned order is correct or otherwise?

8. In the instant case, I find that the appellant no. 1 have availed CENVAT credit of Rs.644,036/- on the CVD paid on Fuel oil, Marine Gas Oil (MGO), Lubricant on the worksheet prepared on the basis of Bill of Entry No. SDY/120/2014-15 dated 03.07.2014 filed on import of the vessel namely M.V. 'Goudar'. Prior to availment of ITC Central credit, appellant no. 1 had taken Central Credit of Rs. 2,16,11,247/- on 05.09.2014 in respect of CVD paid on import of ship M.V. 'Saldar' classified under Heading No. 8803 of the schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

Said Central Credit being restricted to 85% of total CVD of Rs. 2,51,24,997/- on Bill of Entry No. SDY/120/2014-15 dated 03.07.2014 as per Notification No. 8/2011-CF(N) dated 01.03.2011.

9. I find that the appellant no. 1 have taken such credit, keeping reliance upon the judgment (2012 (11) TM 532 – Gujarat High Court – 2012 (269) ELT 247 (Guj.) – CB-Customs Gold Control Reference No. 14 of 2014 dated 05.07.2012 pronounced by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad in the case of M/s. Priya Holding (P) Ltd versus Commissioner of Customs, Port trust, Jamnagar; wherein the bunkers containing oil were to be treated as part of the vessel's machinery and were classifiable under heading No. 8808 of the Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. The appellants have prepared worksheet and availed credit of duty assessed considering bunker (fuel oil) contained in the tanks on the basis as classified under 0427 under their respective sub heading 27103000. I find that said judgment of Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat pronounced on 05.07.2012 and Bill of Entry No. SDY/20/2014-15 dated 30.07.2014 filed on the import of vessel namely M.V. 'Goudar' after lapse of almost two years of said judgment. Appellants in Para 11 of their Appeal Memorandum (statement of facts) stated that after issuance of the said judgment dated 05.07.2012, the department has started to assess to duty of CVD of the bunkers lying under the engine room under the Chapter Heading No. 8808 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 read with the provisions of the Chapter Heading No.8808 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, instead of under Chapter 27 on which Appellant has paid duty. Therefore, on this ground the Appellant no.1 is not eligible to take Central Credit on worksheet prepared by them. Moreover, the Appellant no.1 already availed 85% of the Central Credit of CVD as per restriction contained vide Notification No. 8/2011-CF(N) dated 01.03.2011 in respect of the said Bills of Entry. I also find that as per the said High Court judgment, engine department tanks (jackets) containing oil were to be treated as part of the vessel's machinery and were classifiable under heading No. 8808 of the Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and no separate

duty is leviable thereon. However other tanks containing fuel and oil did not form part of the T.D.T of the vessel and had to be classified under their own heading and duty has to be charged accordingly. The Hon'ble High Court vide above judgment has resolved the matter of classification of engine room bunker. Therefore, if appellant no.2 found that Customs assessed Bill of Entry under wrong classification, they were required to raise objection at the time of assessment. But, in the instant case, the Appellant has prepared worksheet at their own without getting Bill of Entry amended by the Customs and had availed Central Credit of CVD on fuel and oil classified under Chapter 27100000. Considering this fact, I find that Central Credit is eligible on fuel and oil subject to assessed under heading no. 35.08 only as per the said Hon'ble High Court order. Remaining part of fuel and oil which is not treated as part of the vessel and assessed under sub heading 27100000, the Central Credit is not admissible on it.

10. I find that the concerned judicial authority in the impugned order has notified that in statement dated 23.03.2013, the appellant no.2 has clearly stated that immediately after beaching of the ship at their port, all the fuels & oils are removed from the vessel and sent out without storing the same with port use in the process of obtaining goods and materials by breaking up of ship. I agree with conclusion of the lower adjudicating authority that it is evident that such fuel/oil i.e. the Sea Oil and Lub oil do not form part of Input in term of Rule 3 of the Central Credit Rules, 2004 and therefore central credit on the same not available to the appellant as elaborated at para 2.5 & 5.8 of the impugned order.

11. The said Appellants in their defence also contended that initially show cause notice dated 25.12.2015 was issued to them on the basis of Audit report dated 12.08.2015 that they have wrongly availed central credit of Rs.6,44,338/- on the basis of improper available document by contravening the provisions of Rule 3(1)(c) of the Central Credit Rules, 2004 and subsequently inquiry was conducted by the officers of Anti-evasion, Central Excise, Bhavnagar and second show cause notice dated 05.09.2016 issued to them. The ground raised in second SCN is that they have availed central credit of Rs.6,44,336/- by contravening the provisions of Rule 3 read with Rule 2(k) of the Central Credit Rules, 2004 as well as in violation of Explanation of III to sub-section (d) of Rule 6 of the CXR with intention to evade payment of central excise duty and therefore department was not sure under what grounds the demand under reference is recoverable and also contended that disputed central credit was availed in the month of December 2014, whereas the SCN was issued on 23.12.2015 and the same was time barred. I find that the lower adjudicating authority in the impugned order at para 3.7 to 3.12 rightly established that the central credit availed in the month of December-2014 has been utilized by February 2015 and both the cases came to the notice of the department only after audit and inquiry conducted by the department. Further, I find that as per above mentioned order dated 05.07.2012 of the Hon'ble High Court, Central Credit is eligible on fuel and oil subject to assessed under heading no. 35.08 only. Remaining part of the

and oil which is not treated as part of the waste and assessed under sub heading 27103000, the Central Credit is not permissible on it as per Rule 3 read with Rule 2(k) of the Central Credit Rules, 2004. I find that lower adjudicating authority has rightly observed that Note 9 of Section XV (Base Metals and Articles of Base Metal) of the Schedule appended to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 covers all the goods falling under 27 to 33 of the Act (kt. Note 9 of Section XV explains that in relation to the products of the section, the proceeds of obtaining goods and materials by breaking up of ships, boats and other floating structure shall amount to manufacture. Therefore, it is unambiguously clear from the definition of Rule 2(h) of CCR,2004 that, for ship breaking, goods and materials obtained by process of breaking of ship, boats or other floating structure can only be considered as 'exposable goods'. Rule 2(i) of the CCR, 2004 defines that 'finished products' means exposable goods manufactured or produced from input, or by being input services. Further Rule 3 of the CCR, 2004 states that a manufacturer or producer of final products or a provider of output service is allowed to take credit of duties or taxes paid on input or input services and received by the manufacturer for use in or in relation to, the manufacture of final product. Further, as defined under Rule 2(k) of CCR, 2004 input means all goods used in the factory by the manufacturer of the final product but excludes any goods which have no relationship whatsoever with the manufacture of a final product. From this definition, it is clear that the iron which is not used in the factory by manufacture of that product cannot be considered as 'input' as defined under Rule 2(k) of CCR, 2004 and as such Central Credit of duty paid on such iron will not be available to the assessee under Rule 3 of the CCR,2004. Accordingly demand has been rightly confirmed by the lower adjudicating authority alongwith interest and penalty with reference to show cause notice dated 05.09.2010 and dropped the proceedings initiated vide show cause notice dated 23.12.2015.

12. Regarding apportionability of extended period I find that the lower adjudicating authority has held that if appellants had suppressed the facts from the department that Fuel, Lub Oil etc on which Central Credit were taken not used in or in relation to manufacture of their final product. From the material on file it cannot be ascertained whether the goods against appellants no. 1 has taken credit were used in the manufacture of their final exposable product or whether Central credit is admissible on such inputs or otherwise. It is only when investigation was carried out against the appellants, the fact of non-eligibility of Central credit on such goods came to the notice to the department. In view of foregoing discussion, I find that extended period of five years is correctly invoked by the lower adjudicating authority under the proviso to Section 11A (4) of the Central Excise Act 1944, to recover the credit wrongly availed. I find that when demand is confirmed, the interest at appropriate rate on the amount so recoverable also liable to be recovered from the Appellant under the provisions of Section 11AA of the Central Excise Act 1944 read with Rule 17 of the Central Credit Rules 2004. I also find that penal action under the provisions of Section 11AC of the Central Excise Act, 1944 read with Rule 18 of the Central Credit Rules, 2004 has been correctly taken by the lower adjudicating

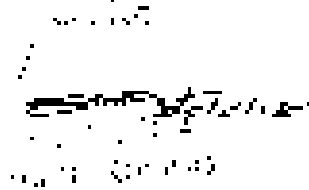
authority.

13. I have also carefully gone through all the case laws cited by the Appellants and find that none of them are applicable in the present as none of the case laws deal with wrong debitment of GENVAT Credit of fuel lying in the engine room. Therefore, I deny all the contentions made by the Appellants.

14. Due to above reasons, the confirmation of the above demand alongwith the interest under Section 11AA and the penalty under Section 11AC of the Central Excise Act, 1944 read with Rules 15 of the Genvat Credit Rules, 2014 appears logical.

15. In view of the above facts and circumstances, I upholds the entire tenor and of the impugned order No. 33-34AC/RUPAL/BV/307R/2013-17 dated 11.01.2017 concerning the duty, interest and penalties on merits and reject the appeals filed by the appellants.

16. The appeals filed by the appellant stands disposed of in above terms.



(P. A. Vasave)
Commissioner (Appeals) /
Commissioner
CGST & Central Excise,
Kutch (Gandhinagar)

F. No. V.258/BVR/2017
F. No. V.254/BVR/2017

Date: 21.06.2018

By R.P.A.D.

To,

1. M/s. K.P.S. Enterprises,
Plot No. 51, Along Ship Breaking Yard,
Alang, Dist.: Bhavnagar.
2. Shri Rakesh Kumar Hansa
Partner of M/s. K.P.S. Enterprise,
Plot No. 51, Along Ship Breaking Yard,
Alang, Dist.: Bhavnagar.

Copy to:

- 1) The Principal Chief Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise, Ahmedabad.
- 2) The Dy. Asst. Commissioner, Central Excise, Rural Division, Bhavnagar.
- 3) The Dy. J. Asst. Commr. (Sys : H O), Bhavnagar-for uploading on website.
- 4) F.No.V.254/BVR/2017.
- 5) Closed File