



::आयुक्त (अपील्स) का कार्यालय, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर और केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क::  
O/O THE COMMISSIONER (APPEALS), GST & CENTRAL EXCISE



सत्यमेव जयते

द्वितीय तल, जी एस टी भवन / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, GST Bhavan

रेस कोर्स रिंग रोड / Race Course Ring Road

राजकोट / Rajkot - 360 001

Tele Fax No. 0281 - 2477952/2441142 Email: cexappealsrajkot@gmail.com

रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी.द्वारा :-

DIN-20200864SX00001BBCDA

क	अपील / फाइलसंख्या/ Appeal / File No.	मूल आदेश सं / O.I.O. No.	दिनांक/ Date
	V2/7/GDM/2020	IV/GRD/Ref/C.Ex./Cenvat/2019-20/02	09.12.2019

ख अपील आदेश संख्या (Order-In-Appeal No.):

**KCH-EXCUS-000-APP-064-2020**

आदेश का दिनांक / Date of Order:	24.08.2020	जारी करने की तारीख / Date of issue:	26.08.2020
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श्री गोपी नाथ, आयुक्त (अपील्स), राजकोट द्वारा पारित /  
Passed by Shri. Gopi Nath, Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot

ग अपर आयुक्त/ संयुक्त आयुक्त/ उपायुक्त/ सहायक आयुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क/ सेवाकर/ वस्तु एवं सेवाकर, राजकोट / जामनगर / गांधीधाम। द्वारा उपरलिखित जारी मूल आदेश से सृजित: /  
Arising out of above mentioned OIO issued by Additional/Joint/Deputy/Assistant Commissioner, Central Excise/ST / GST,  
Rajkot / Jamnagar / Gandhidham :

घ अपीलकर्ता & प्रतिवादी का नाम एवं पता / Name & Address of the Appellant & Respondent :-

**Liladhar Pasoo Forwarders Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. 04, Sector-01 Marshalling Yard, Kandla Free Trade Zone, Gandhidham, Kutch, .**

इस आदेश (अपील) से व्यथित कोई व्यक्ति निम्नलिखित तरीके में उपयुक्त प्राधिकारी / प्राधिकरण के समक्ष अपील दायर कर सकता है। /  
Any person aggrieved by this Order-in-Appeal may file an appeal to the appropriate authority in the following way.

(A) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के प्रति अपील, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35B के अंतर्गत एवं वित्त अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 86 के अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित जगह की जा सकती है। /

Appeal to Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal under Section 35B of CEA, 1944 / Under Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994 an appeal lies to:-

(i) वर्गीकरण मूल्यांकन से सम्बन्धित सभी मामले सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की विशेष पीठ, वेस्ट ब्लॉक नं 2, आर. के. पुरम, नई दिल्ली, को की जानी चाहिए। /

The special bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal of West Block No. 2, R.K. Puram, New Delhi in all matters relating to classification and valuation.

(ii) उपरोक्त परिच्छेद 1(a) में बताए गए अपीलों के अलावा शेष सभी अपीलों सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (सिस्टेट) की पश्चिम क्षेत्रीय पीठिका, द्वितीय तल, बहुमाली भवन असावा अहमदाबाद- 370016 को की जानी चाहिए। /

To the West regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bhaumali Bhawan, Asarwa Ahmedabad-380016 in case of appeals other than as mentioned in para- 1(a) above

(iii) अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के समक्ष अपील प्रस्तुत करने के लिए केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क (अपील) नियमवली, 2001, के नियम 6 के अंतर्गत निर्धारित किए गये प्रपत्र EA-3 को चार प्रतियों में दर्ज किया जाना चाहिए। इनमें से कम से कम एक प्रति के साथ, जहां उत्पाद शुल्क की माँग, ब्याज की माँग और लगाया गया जर्माना, रुपए 5 लाख या उससे कम, 5 लाख रुपए या 50 लाख रुपए तक अथवा 50 लाख रुपए से अधिक है तो क्रमशः 1,000/- रुपये, 5,000/- रुपये अथवा 10,000/- रुपये का निर्धारित जमा शुल्क की प्रति संलग्न करें। निर्धारित शुल्क का भुगतान, संबंधित अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की शाखा के सहायक रजिस्टार के नाम से किसी भी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक द्वारा जारी रेखांकित बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए। संबंधित ड्राफ्ट का भुगतान, बैंक की उस शाखा में होना चाहिए जहां संबंधित अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की शाखा स्थित है। स्थगन आदेश (स्टे ऑर्डर) के लिए आवेदन-पत्र के साथ 500/- रुपए का निर्धारित शुल्क जमा करना होगा। /

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.5000/-, Rs.10,000/- where amount of duty demand/interest/penalty/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 Asst. Registrar of branch of any nominated public sector bank of the place where the bench of any nominated public sector bank of the place where the bench of the Tribunal is situated. Application made for grant of stay shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs. 500/-

(B) अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण के समक्ष अपील, वित्त अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 86(1) के अंतर्गत सेवाकर नियमवली, 1994, के नियम 9(1) के तहत निर्धारित प्रपत्र S.T.-5 में चार प्रतियों में की जा सकेगी एवं उसके साथ जिस आदेश के विरुद्ध अपील की गयी हो, उसकी प्रति साथ में संलग्न करें (उनमें से एक प्रति प्रमाणित होनी चाहिए) और इनमें से कम से कम एक प्रति के साथ, जहां सेवाकर की माँग, ब्याज की माँग और लगाया गया जर्माना, रुपए 5 लाख या उससे कम, 5 लाख रुपए या 50 लाख रुपए तक अथवा 50 लाख रुपए से अधिक है तो क्रमशः 1,000/- रुपये, 5,000/- रुपये अथवा 10,000/- रुपये का निर्धारित जमा शुल्क की प्रति संलग्न करें। निर्धारित शुल्क का भुगतान, संबंधित अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की शाखा के सहायक रजिस्टार के नाम से किसी भी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक द्वारा जारी रेखांकित बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए। संबंधित ड्राफ्ट का भुगतान, बैंक की उस शाखा में होना चाहिए जहां संबंधित अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण की शाखा स्थित है। स्थगन आदेश (स्टे ऑर्डर) के लिए आवेदन-पत्र के साथ 500/- रुपए का निर्धारित शुल्क जमा करना होगा। /

The appeal under sub section (1) of Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994, to the Appellate Tribunal Shall be filed in quadruplicate in Form S.T.5 as prescribed under Rule 9(1) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994, and shall be accompanied by a copy of the order appealed against (one of which shall be certified copy) and should be accompanied by a fees of Rs. 1000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied is Rs. 5 Lakhs or less, Rs.5000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied is more than five lakhs but not exceeding Rs. Fifty Lakhs, Rs.10,000/- where the amount of service tax & interest demanded & penalty levied is more than fifty Lakhs rupees, in the form of crossed bank draft in favour of the Assistant Registrar of the bench of nominated Public Sector Bank of the place where the bench of Tribunal is situated. / Application made for grant of stay shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs.500/-



(i) वित्त अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 86 की उप-धाराओं (2) एवं (2A) के अंतर्गत दर्ज की गयी अपील, सेवाकर नियमवली, 1994, के नियम 9(2) एवं 9(2A) के तहत निर्धारित प्रपत्र S.T.-7 में की जा सकेगी एवं उसके साथ आयुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अथवा आयुक्त (अपील), केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क द्वारा पारित आदेश की प्रतियाँ संलग्न करें (उनमें से एक प्रति प्रमाणित होनी चाहिए) और आयुक्त द्वारा सहायक आयुक्त अथवा उपायुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क/ सेवाकर, को अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को आवेदन दर्ज करने का निर्देश देने वाले आदेश की प्रति भी साथ में संलग्न करनी होगी। /

The appeal under sub section (2) and (2A) of the section 86 the Finance Act 1994, shall be filed in Form ST.7 as prescribed under Rule 9 (2) & 9(2A) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 and shall be accompanied by a copy of order of Commissioner Central Excise or Commissioner, Central Excise (Appeals) (one of which shall be a certified copy) and copy of the order passed by the Commissioner authorizing the Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise/ Service Tax to file the appeal before the Appellate Tribunal.

(ii) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय प्राधिकरण (सेस्टेट) के प्रति अपीलों के मामले में केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम 1944 की धारा 35एफ के अंतर्गत, जो की वित्तीय अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 83 के अंतर्गत सेवाकर को भी लागू की गई है, इस आदेश के प्रति अपीलीय प्राधिकरण में अपील करते समय उत्पाद शुल्क/सेवा कर मांग के 10 प्रतिशत (10%), जब मांग एवं जुर्माना विवादित है, या जुर्माना, जब केवल जुर्माना विवादित है, का भुगतान किया जाए, बशर्ते कि इस धारा के अंतर्गत जमा कि जाने वाली अपेक्षित देय राशि दस करोड़ रुपए से अधिक न हो।

केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर के अंतर्गत "भंग किए गए शुल्क" में निम्न शामिल है

- (i) धारा 11 डी के अंतर्गत रकम-
- (ii) सेनवेट जमा की ली गई गलत राशि
- (iii) सेनवेट जमा नियमावली के नियम 6 के अंतर्गत देय रकम

- बशर्ते यह कि इस धारा के प्रावधान वित्तीय (सं. 2) अधिनियम 2014 के आरंभ से पूर्व किसी अपीलीय प्राधिकारी के समक्ष विचाराधीन स्थगन अर्जी एवं अपील को लागू नहीं होगा। /

For an appeal to be filed before the CESTAT, under Section 35F of the Central Excise Act, 1944 which is also made applicable to Service Tax under Section 83 of the Finance Act, 1994, 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, provided the amount of pre-deposit payable would be subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10 Crores,

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

- provided further that the provisions of this Section shall not apply to the stay application and appeals pending before any appellate authority prior to the commencement of the Finance (No.2) Act, 2014.

(C) **भारत सरकार को पुनरीक्षण आवेदन :  
Revision application to Government of India:**

इस आदेश की पुनरीक्षणयाचिका निम्नलिखित मामलों में, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 35EE के प्रथमपरंतुक के अंतर्गत अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार, पुनरीक्षण आवेदन ईकाई, वित्त मंत्रालय, राजस्व विभाग, चौथी मंजिल, जीवन दीप भवन, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001, को किया जाना चाहिए। /

A revision application lies to the Under Secretary, to the Government of India, Revision Application Unit, Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001, under Section 35EE of the CEA 1944 in respect of the following case, governed by first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section-35B ibid:

(i) यदि माल के किसी नुकसान के मामले में, जहां नुकसान किसी माल को किसी कारखाने से भंडार गृह के पारगमन के दौरान या किसी अन्य कारखाने या फिर किसी एक भंडार गृह से दूसरे भंडार गृह पारगमन के दौरान, या किसी भंडार गृह में या भंडारण में माल के प्रसंस्करण के दौरान, किसी कारखाने या किसी भंडार गृह में माल के नुकसान के मामले में। /

In case of any loss of goods, where the loss occurs 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

(ii) भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या क्षेत्र को निर्यात कर रहे माल के विनिर्माण में प्रयुक्त कच्चे माल पर भरी गई केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क के छूट (रिबेट) के मामले में, जो भारत के बाहर किसी राष्ट्र या क्षेत्र को निर्यात की गयी 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.

(iii) यदि उत्पाद शुल्क का भुगतान किए बिना भारत के बाहर, नेपाल या भूटान को माल निर्यात किया गया है। /

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

(iv) सनिश्चित उत्पाद के उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान के लिए जो ड्यूटी क्रेडिट इस अधिनियम एवं इसके विभिन्न प्रावधानों के तहत मान्य की गई है और ऐसे आदेश जो आयुक्त (अपील) के द्वारा वित्त अधिनियम (नं. 2), 1998 की धारा 109 के द्वारा नियत की गई तारीख अथवा समायाविधि पर या बाद में पारित किए गए हैं। /

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 such order is passed by the Commissioner (Appeals) on or after, the date appointed under Sec. 109 of the Finance (No.2) Act, 1998.

(v) उपरोक्त आवेदन की दो प्रतियां प्रपत्र संख्या EA-8 में, जो की केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क (अपील)नियमावली, 2001, के नियम 9 के अंतर्गत विनिर्दिष्ट है, इस आदेश के संप्रेषण के 3 माह के अंतर्गत की जानी चाहिए। उपरोक्त आवेदन के साथ मूल आदेश व अपील आदेश की दो प्रतियां संलग्न की जानी चाहिए। साथ ही केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम, 1944 की धारा 35-EE के तहत निर्धारित शुल्क की अदायगी के साक्ष्य के तौर पर TR-6 की प्रति संलग्न की जानी 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.

(vi) पुनरीक्षण आवेदन के साथ निम्नलिखित निर्धारित शुल्क की अदायगी की जानी चाहिए।

जहाँ संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये या उससे कम हो तो रुपये 200/- का भुगतान किया जाए और यदि संलग्न रकम एक लाख रुपये से ज्यादा हो तो रुपये 1000 -/ का भुगतान किया जाए।

The revision application shall be accompanied by a fee of Rs. 200/- where the amount involved in Rupees One Lac or less and Rs. 1000/- where the amount involved is more than Rupees One Lac.

(D) यदि इस आदेश में कई मूल आदेशों का समावेश है तो प्रत्येक मूल आदेश के लिए शुल्क का भुगतान, उपर्युक्त ढंग से किया जाना चाहिये। इस तथ्य के होते हुए भी की लिखा पट्टी कार्य से बचने के लिए यथास्थिति अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण को एक अपील या केन्द्रीय सरकार को एक आवेदन किया जाता है। / In case, if the order covers various umbers 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 lakh fee of Rs. 100/- for each.

(E) यथासंशोधित न्यायालय शुल्क अधिनियम, 1975, के अनुसूची-I के अनुसार मूल आदेश एवं स्थगन आदेश की प्रति पर निर्धारित 6.50 रुपये 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 adjudicating authority shall bear a court fee stamp of Rs.6.50 as prescribed under Schedule-I in terms of the Court Fee Act,1975. as amended.

(F) सीमा शुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (कार्य विधि) नियमावली, 1982 में वर्णित एवं अन्य संबन्धित मामलों को सम्मिलित करने वाले नियमों की ओर भी ध्यान आकषित किया जाता है। /

Attention is also invited to the rules covering these and other related matters contained in the Customs, Excise and Service Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1982.

उच्च अपीलीय प्राधिकारी को अपील दाखिल करने से संबंधित व्यापक, विस्तृत और नवीनतम प्रावधानों के लिए, अपीलार्थी विभागीय वेबसाइट [www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in) को देख सकते हैं। /

For the elaborate, detailed and latest provisions relating to filing of appeal to the higher appellate authority, the appellant may refer to the Departmental website [www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in).



**:: ORDER-IN-APPEAL ::**

M/s Liladhar Pasoo Forwarders Private Limited, Gandhidham (*hereinafter referred to as "Appellant"*) filed appeal No. V2/7/GDM/2020 against Order-in-Original No. IV/GRD/Ref./C.Ex./Cenvat/2019-20/02 dated 9.12.2019 (*hereinafter referred to as 'impugned order'*) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, CGST Rural Division, Gandhidham (*hereinafter referred to as "refund sanctioning authority"*).

2. The brief facts of the case are that during the course of Audit, it was observed that appellant had short paid Service Tax amounting to Rs.1,58,813/- on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' under reverse charge mechanism for the year 2016-17 and had also short paid service tax amounting to Rs.1,875/- on 'Customs House Agent Services' for the year 2017-18. The appellant paid Service Tax along with interest and intimated the Department vide letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

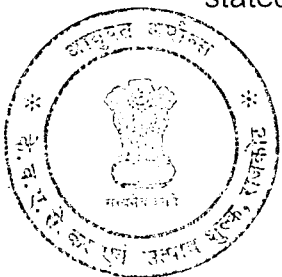
2.1 The appellant filed refund claim for Rs. 1,60,689/- on 18.9.2019, under the provisions of Section 142(3) of the CGST Act, 2017 for refund of service tax paid pursuant to Audit objection on the grounds that they were eligible to avail Cenvat credit of service tax paid on reverse charge basis in terms of Rule 3 of the Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004; that in GST regime, assesseees were allowed to carry forward balance lying their Cenvat credit account through submission of TRAN-1 in terms of Section 140 of the CGST Act, 2017; that when they had paid said service tax amount, it was not possible to file TRAN-1, hence, they filed refund claim.

2.2 The refund sanctioning authority rejected the said refund claim vide impugned order on the grounds that,

(i) The refund under Section 142(3) of the CGST Act, 2017 is admissible, if an amount is refundable under the provisions of the existing law; that the Appellant was not eligible to claim refund of service tax paid on 'Manpower Supply Agency Service' and 'CHA Service' in existing law and hence, they are not eligible to claim refund under Section 142(3) *ibid*.

3. Aggrieved, the Appellant has preferred appeal on various grounds, *inter alia*, as under:-

(i) That refund sanctioning authority has passed the impugned order in utter disregard of principal of natural justice; that the refund sanctioning authority merely stated that had the appellant would have made payment of service tax on time, it



would have been eligible to take cenvat credit of the same; that the order of a quasi-judicial authority must be supported by the reasons of rationality; that refund sanctioning authority has completely ignored the submissions made during personal hearing such as service tax so paid on basis of audit objections is eligible for cenvat credit in terms of Rule 3 and Rule 4 of the Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004; that after introduction of GST, the Cenvat credit cannot be forwarded to GST through TRAN-1, hence they are eligible for refund.

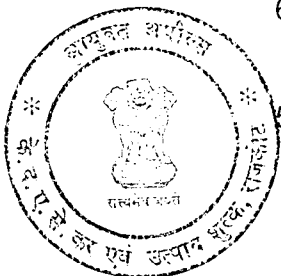
(ii) That appellant had filed refund claim after service tax was paid and within statutory time limit of one year, hence appellant satisfies the conditions prescribed under Section 11B of the Central Excise Act, 1944 for claiming refund; that as per Rule 3 and Rule 4 read with Rule 9 of CCR, 2004, the appellant is entitled to take Cenvat credit of service tax paid on input services availed and can set off the same against its output service tax liabilities. Accordingly, appellant is entitled to Cenvat credit of Rs. 1,60,689/- under CCR, 2004. In this regard, appellant relies on case laws of Ford India Pvt Ltd [MANU/Cenvat credit/0099/2019], Ghaziabad Precision Products Pvt Ltd [2016(42) STR 369].

(iii) That after introduction of GST regime with effect from 1st July 2017, assessee/ service providers were allowed to carry forward cenvat credit lying in the books as on 30th June 2017 into GST regime through submissions of TRAN-1 form in terms of Section 140 of the CGST Act, 2017; that the appellant paid service tax of Rs. 1,60,689/- on 27th & 28th June 2019, in terms of audit conducted by the Department on 21st & 24th June 2019. As on date, the said of service tax admissible as cenvat credit cannot be forwarded through TRAN-1 in absence of any mechanism under CGST Act, hence service tax paid by appellant is eligible for refund in terms of Section 142(3) read with Sub-section (6a) of CGST Act, 2017.

4. In Personal Hearing, Shri Chiranjeev Tandon, Advocate and Shri Deepak Chandnani appeared on behalf of the Appellant and reiterated grounds of appeal and filed additional submission dated 20.02.2020 for consideration.

4.1 In additional submission, the Appellant reiterated the submissions made in appeal memorandum and relied upon case laws of Toshiba Machine Chennai Private Limited [Appeal No. 40751/2018] and Thermax Limited [(2019) 31 GSTL 60(Gujarat)].

5. I have carefully gone through the facts of the case, the impugned order,



grounds of appeal memorandum and additional submission made by the Appellant. The issue to be decided in the present appeal is whether the impugned order rejecting refund claim of Rs. 1,60,689/- is correct, legal and proper or not.

6. On going through the records, I find that the Appellant had short paid Service Tax amounting to Rs.1,58,813/- on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' under reverse charge mechanism for the period 2016-17 and short paid service tax amounting to Rs.1,875/- on Customs House Agent Services for the period 2017-18. On being pointed out by Audit, the appellant paid the said service tax amounting to Rs.1,60,689/- and subsequently filed refund claim of Rs.1,60,689/- under Section 142(3) of the CGST Act, 2017.

7. I find that appellant had paid service tax during the month of June-2019, when Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 were not in existence. Further, there is no provision in CGST Act, 2017 for availment of cenvat credit of service tax paid on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' and Customs House Agent Services. Since, Cenvat credit of service tax had not accrued to the Appellant, they were not eligible to get the refund of cenvat credit. Once the Appellant were not eligible to avail cenvat credit, there is no point on examining whether service tax paid on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' and Customs House Agent Services can be refunded in cash or not. It is also worthwhile to mention that in the erstwhile Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004, refund of accumulated cenvat credit could be refunded only under Rule 5 of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004 in the circumstances as provided therein. It is beyond doubt that Cenvat credit of service tax paid on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' and Customs House Agent Services is not eligible for refund under Rule 5 *ibid* or under any other provisions of Cenvat Credit Rules, 2004. I, therefore, hold that the refund sanctioning authority has rightly rejected the refund claim filed by the Appellant.

8. Regarding the plea of the appellant to grant them refund of service tax on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' and Customs House Agent Services paid by them under Section 11B of the Central Excise Act, 1944 read with Section 142(3) of the CGST Act, 2017, I find that the Appellant is not eligible for refund under Section 11B of the Central Excise Act, 1944 for the simple reason that even before 1.7.2017 when the Central Excise Act, 1944 was in force, there was no provision to grant refund of service tax paid on 'Manpower Recruitment or Supply Agency Service' and Customs House Agent Services in cash under Section 11B *ibid*. When refund was not permissible in





9.2 Further, there is no dispute that the above is guided by the Handbook of Procedure ('HBP' for short) and paragraph 4.50 of the HBP prescribes the payment of Customs Duty and interest in case of *bona fide* default in export obligation (EO), as under :

"(a) Customs duty with interest as notified by DoR to be recovered from Authorisation holder on account of regularisation or enforcement of BG / LUT, shall be deposited by Authorisation holder in relevant Head of Account of Customs Revenue i.e., "Major Head 0037 - Customs and minor head 001-Import Duties" in prescribed T.R. Challan within 30 days of demand raised by Regional / Customs Authority and documentary evidence shall be produced to this effect to Regional Authority / Customs Authority immediately. Exporter can also make suo motu payment of customs duty and interest based on self/own calculation as per procedure laid down by DoR."

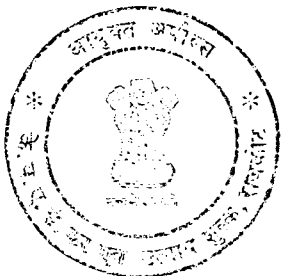
10. Thus, the availability of CENVAT paid on inputs despite failure to meet with the export obligation may not hold good here since, firstly, it was a conditional import and secondly, such import was to be exclusively used as per FTP. Moreover, such imported inputs cannot be used anywhere else but for export and hence, claiming input credit upon failure would defeat the very purpose/mandate of the Advance Licence. Hence, claim as to the benefit of CENVAT just as a normal import which is suffering duty is also unavailable for the very same reasons, also since the rules/procedures/conditions governing normal import compared to the one under Advance Authorization may vary because of the nature of import.

11. The import which would have normally suffered duty having escaped due to the Advance Licence, but such import being a conditional one which ultimately stood unsatisfied, naturally loses the privileges and the only way is to tax the import. The governing Notification No. 18/2015 (*supra*), paragraph 2.35 of the FTP which requires execution of bond, etc., in case of non-fulfilment of export obligation and paragraph 4.50 of the HBP read together would mean that the legislature has visualized the case of non-fulfilment of export obligation, which drives an assessee to paragraph 4.50 of the HBP whereby the payment of duty has been prescribed in case of *bona fide* default in export obligation, which also takes care of voluntary payment of duty with interest as well. Admittedly, the inputs imported have gone into the manufacture of goods meant for export, but the export did not take place. At best, the appellant could have availed the CENVAT Credit, but that would not *ipso facto* give them any right to claim refund of such credit in cash with the onset of G.S.T. because CENVAT is an option available to an assessee to be exercised and the same cannot be enforced by the CESTAT at this stage.

12. There is no question of refund and therefore, I do not see any impediment in the impugned order.

13. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed."

10. Further, I find that had the appellant correctly self-assessed their service tax liability at the relevant time, they would have got the benefit of carried forward their cenvat credit through Tran-1 in GST regime and so question of refund would not have arisen. But appellant failed to assess their service tax liability correctly as per the existing law, despite working in self-assessment era.



11. In view of above discussions and findings, I find no reason to interfere with impugned order. Accordingly, I reject the appeal filed by the appellant.

12. अपीलकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज की गई अपील का निपटारा उपरोक्त तरीके से किया जाता है।

12. The appeal filed by the Appellant is disposed off as above.

सत्यापित

जे. एस. नाग्रेचा

अधीक्षक (अपील्स)

(Gopi Nath)  
Commissioner (Appeals)

By R.P.A.D.

To, M/s LiladharPasoo Forwarders Private Limited, Plot No-04, Sector-01, Marshalling Yard, Kandla Free Trade Zone, Gandhidham (Kutch)-370 230	सेवामें, M/s लीलाधार पासू फोर्वर्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, प्लॉट नंबर -4, सेक्टर-1, मार्शलिंग यार्ड, कांडला फ्री ट्रेड ज़ोन, गांधीधाम (कच्छ)-370 230
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प्रति:-

- 1) प्रधान मुख्य आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवाकर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, गुजरात क्षेत्र, अहमदाबाद को जानकारी हेतु।
- 2) आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवाकर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, गांधीधाम आयुक्तालय, गांधीधाम को आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु।
- 3) सहायक आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवाकर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, गांधीधाम (ग्रामीण) मण्डल, गांधीधाम (कच्छ) को आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु।
- ✓ 4) गार्ड फाइल।

