



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

द्वितीय तल, जी एस टी भवन / 2nd Floor, GST Bhavan,
रेस कोर्स रिंग रोड, / Race Course Ring Road,
राजकोट / Rajkot - 360 001



सत्यमेव जयते

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रजिस्टर्ड डाक ए.डी. द्वारा :-

DIN - 20210564SX0000515815

क	अपील / फाइल संख्या/ Appeal / File No.	मूल आदेश सं / OIO No.	दिनांक/ Date
	V2/77/RAJ/2020	1/D//2020-21	2.6.2020

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

RAJ-EXCUS-000-APP-18-2021

आदेश का दिनांक / 25.05.2021 जारी करने की तारीख / 27.05.2021
Date of Order: Date of issue:

श्री अखिलेश कुमार, आयुक्त (अपील), राजकोट द्वारा पारित /

Passed by Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Commissioner (Appeals),
Rajkot

ग अपर आयुक्त/ संयुक्त आयुक्त/ उपायुक्त/ सहायक आयुक्त, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क/ सेवाकर/ वस्तु एवं सेवाकर,
राजकोट / जामनगर / गांधीधामा द्वारा उपयुक्तलिखित 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 :-

M/s. Sanjay Products, 32-33 Shreeji Industrial Estate, Rajkot Highway, Morbi.

इस आदेश (अपील) से ब्यथित कोई व्यक्ति निम्नलिखित तरीके से 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) बर्गीकरण 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- 380016 को की जानी चाहिए। /

To the West regional bench of Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) at, 2nd 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) नियमवाली, 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 मांग, ब्याज की मांग और लगाया गया जुर्माना, रुपये 5 लाख या उससे कम, 5 लाख रुपये या 50 लाख रुपये तक अथवा 50 लाख रुपये 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 रजिस्ट्रार 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। स्वयं आदेश (स्टे ऑर्डर) के लिए आवेदन-पत्र के साथ 500/- रुपये 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 नियमवाली, 1994, के नियम 9(1) के तहत निर्धारित प्रपत्र S.T.-5 में चार प्रतियों में की जा सकती है 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 मांग, ब्याज की मांग और लगाया गया जुर्माना, रुपये 5 लाख या उससे कम, 5 लाख रुपये या 50 लाख रुपये तक अथवा 50 लाख रुपये 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 रजिस्ट्रार 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। स्वयं आदेश (स्टे ऑर्डर) के लिए आवेदन-पत्र के साथ 500/- रुपये 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 of 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 नियमवाली, 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 रुपये से अधिक न हो।
केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क एवं सेवाकर के अंतर्गत "मांग किए गए शुल्क" में निम्न शामिल है
(i) धारा 11 डी के अंतर्गत रकम
(ii) सेनबेट जमा की ली गई गलत राशि
(iii) सेनबेट 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 कोपनरीक्षण आवेदन :
Revision application to Government of India:
इस आदेश की पुनरीक्षणयाचिका निम्नलिखित मामले में, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 35EE के प्रथमपूरंतुक के अंतर्गत अवर सचिव, भारत सरकार, पुनरीक्षण आवेदन इकाई, 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 छुट (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) मुनिश्चित 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 साथ 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 numbers 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-1 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 बर्णित एवं अन्य संबन्धित मामलों को सम्मिलित करने वाले नियमों की और भी ध्यान आकर्षित 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.
- (G) उच्च अपीलीय प्राधिकारी को अपील दाखिल करने से संबंधित व्यापक, विस्तृत और नवीनतम प्रावधानों के लिए, अपीलार्थी विभागीय वेबसाइट 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



:: ORDER-IN-APPEAL ::

M/s. Sanjay Products, Morbi (*herein after referred to as "Appellant"*) has filed Appeal No. V2/77/Raj/2020 against Order-in-Original No. 1/D/2020-21 dated 2.6.2020 (*hereinafter referred to as 'impugned order'*) passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Central GST Division, Morbi-I (*hereinafter referred to as 'adjudicating authority'*).

2. The facts of the case, in brief, are that the Appellant was engaged in the manufacture of Pan Masala not containing tobacco falling under Chapter 21 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 and was registered with Central Excise Department. The Appellant had filed refund claim for an amount of Rs. 7,00,000/- under Rule 10 of the Pan Masala Packing Machine (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Rules, 2008 on the ground that their packing machine had remained sealed for a fortnight in the month of August, 2013. The refund claim was rejected vide Order-in-Original No. 1/Ref/2014 dated 27.1.2014.

2.1 The Appellant filed appeal before the then Commissioner (Appeals), Central Excise, Rajkot who vide his Order-in-Appeal No. RJT-EXCUS-000-APP-243-14-15 dated 31.12.2014 set aside the said Order-in-Original dated 27.1.2014 but imposed penalty of Rs. 5,000/- under Rule 27 of the Central Excise Rules, 2002 on the Appellant. The Department reviewed the said Order-in-Appeal and filed appeal before the Hon'ble CESTAT, Ahmedabad along with Stay application. The Hon'ble Tribunal rejected Stay Application vide Misc. Order dated 8.4.2015. The Appellant filed refund claim of Rs. 7,00,000/- pursuant to Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014, which was sanctioned to them after recovery of penalty of Rs. 5,000/-.

2.2. The Appellant was issued protective Show Cause Notice No. V.38/AR-III/Refund/Morbi/ADC(PV)24/2016-17 dated 21.4.2016 for erroneous sanction of refund of Rs. 6,95,000/- under Section 11A of the Act.

2.3. The appeal filed before the CESTAT, Ahmedabad was withdrawn by the Department on monetary limits. On withdrawal of the Departmental appeal from the CESTAT, Ahmedabad, the adjudicating authority adjudicated the



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Show Cause Notice dated 21.4.2016 *supra* vide the impugned order and confirmed demand of Rs. 6,95,000/- under Section 11A(1) of the Central Excise Act, 1944 towards erroneous sanction of refund.

3. Being aggrieved, the Appellant has filed the present appeal, *inter alia*, on following grounds:

(i) The adjudicating authority has not appreciated that the very base for issuance of the subject SCN No. V.38-AR-III-REFUND-MORBI-ADC(PV)-24-2016-17 dated 21-04-2016 was that since the department had not accepted O-I-A No. RAJ-EXCUS-000-APP-243-14-15 dt. 31-12 2014, Appeal No. E/10335/2015 was filed in CESTAT, Ahmedabad. However, the said Appeal No. E/10335/2015 stand dismissed as withdrawn vide Final Order No. A/ 12355-12420 /2018 dated 24.10.2018.

(ii) The impugned order was passed after ascertaining status of department's Appeal filed before the Hon'ble CESTAT Ahmedabad and in facts that the said appeal was withdrawn on monetary ground. The adjudicating authority erred in law in as much as, there was no authority in law available with him to take up the case for adjudication when the very base for not accepting the O-I-A issued by Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot department's appeal No. E/10335/2015 stand withdrawn. The department's Appeal has been withdrawn following Government of India's litigation Policy not to file Appeals. Thus, adjudicating authority was not expected to pass any order against the appellant when the very base of the issuance of SCN does not have any valid force.

(iii) The adjudicating authority has not followed the judicial decision as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Kamlakshi Finance Corporation Ltd 1991(55) ELT-433(SC)* }, wherein it has been laid down that the orders of higher authority shall be followed, unless there is stay against such order from the Court or appropriate higher authority. The O-I-O has not correctly appreciated that when there is no stay against O-I-A No. RJT-EXCUS-000-APP-243-14-15 dated 31-12-2014, adjudicating authority ought to have followed the said O-I-A dated 31-12-2014, which was in favour of the Appellant, wherein said duty demand was already set aside by Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot. Therefore, it was not open for the



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adjudicating authority to demand the very same amount of duty which was set aside by the O-I-A dated 31-12-2014. The adjudicating authority can not pass any order contrary to the view taken by jurisdictional Commissioner (Appeals). This is gross negligence on the part of the adjudicating authority in law wherein he is required to abide by judicial discipline and follow OIA dated 31-12-2014. Therefore, this O-I-O dated 02-06-2020 being contrary to the law deserves to be set aside.

(iv) It is settled law that decision by higher authority in case of Assessee, shall become binding law for that Assessee, by all lower authorities, irrespective of the correctness of the Order unless over ruled by the superior courts. In the present case the O-I-A dated 31-12-2014 passed by Commissioner (Appeals) becomes a binding decision for the adjudicating authority as the Commissioner (Appeals) is a higher authority than the adjudicating authority in the hierarchy of cadre. Therefore, the adjudicating authority who is lower in Rank than the Commissioner (Appeals) was expected to abide by the judicial discipline and follow the OIA dated 31.12.2014, which was neither stayed or overruled by higher appellate authority. Thus, the impugned order deserves to be set aside.

(v) The O-I-O has not correctly appreciated that levy of central excise duty is only on manufacture of excisable goods in terms of charging section 3 or 3A of the Central Excise Act 1944. However, in case of "Non production of goods" then the procedure under Rule 10 is having clear provision for "abatement" of duty for such period of 15 days or above for the concerned month. Appellant has followed this procedure u/r 10 of rules ibid to show the "Non production of notified goods". Hence, duty is also not payable as "abatement of duty" was available.

4. Personal hearing in the matter was conducted in virtual mode through video conferencing on 10.3.2021. Shri P.P. Jadeja, Consultant, appeared on behalf of the Appellant. He reiterated the grounds of appeal and stated that he would file additional written submission. The Appellant filed additional written submission on 2.4.2021, wherein the submissions made in grounds of appeal are reiterated.

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



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grounds of appeal memorandum and additional written submission as well as oral submission made at the time of hearing. The issue to be decided in the present appeal is whether the impugned order confirming demand for erroneous sanction of refund of Rs. 6,95,000/- is correct, legal and proper or not.

6. On going through the impugned order, I find that the Appellant had filed refund claim pursuant to the Order-in-Appeal No. RJT-EXCUS-000-APP-243-14-15 dated 31.12.2014 passed by the then Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot, which was in their favour and the claim was sanctioned to them. Since, the Department had challenged the said Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014 before the Hon'ble CESTAT, Ahmedabad, the Appellant was issued protective demand under Section 11A of the Act on 21.4.2016, apparently to safeguard the Government Revenue in the event of Tribunal deciding the appeal in favour of the Department. I find that subsequently the Department withdrew the appeal from the CESTAT, Ahmedabad on monetary limits. On withdrawal of Departmental appeal from the CESTAT, the adjudicating authority adjudicated the said protective Show Cause Notice dated 21.4.2016 and confirmed the demand.

7. The Appellant has contended that the adjudicating authority has not followed the judicial decision as laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Kamlakshi Finance Corporation Ltd reports as 1991(55) ELT-433(SC), wherein it has been laid down that the orders of higher authority shall be followed, unless there is stay against such order from the Court or appropriate higher authority. The Appellant further it was not open for the adjudicating authority to demand the very same amount of duty which was set aside by the Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014.

8. I find that in the present case, it is not under dispute that refund was sanctioned to the Appellant on passing the order by the then Commissioner (Appeals), Rajkot in their favour. The Show Cause Notice dated 21.4.2016 was issued to recover refund amount from the Appellant in case the appeal is decided by the CESTAT in favour of the Department. Thus, when the Department withdrew the appeal from the CESTAT, Ahmedabad, it would mean that there is no appeal filed against the Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014 and the said Order-in-Appeal has attained finality. However, the adjudicating authority again decided the issue on merit and confirmed the demand under Section 11A of the



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Act ignoring the fact that merit of the issue was already decided by the then Commissioner(Appeals), Rajkot vide Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014 and the same has also attained finality. The adjudicating authority failed to appreciate that when the appeal was withdrawn by the Department on monetary limit, the Order-in-Appeal dated 31.12.2014 attained finality and the judicial discipline required him to have followed the said Order-in-Appeal in letter and spirit. It is pertinent to mention that when any appeal is withdrawn on monetary limit from any appellate forum, the Department may agitate the issue in appropriate case in other appeal proceedings, but it is not open for the adjudicating authority to pass order on merit disregarding binding precedent.

8.1 I rely on the Order passed by the Hon'ble CESTAT, New Delhi in the case of RGL Converters reported as 2015 (315) E.L.T. 309 (Tri. - Del.), wherein it has been held that,

"10. It is axiomatic that judgments of this Tribunal have precedential authority and are binding on all quasi-judicial authorities (Primary or Appellate), administering the provisions of the Act, 1944. If an adjudicating authority is unaware of this basic principle, the authority must be inferred to be inadequately equipped to deliver the quasi-judicial functions entrusted to his case. If the authority is aware of the hierarchical judicial discipline (of precedents) but chooses to transgress the discipline, the conduct amounts to judicial misconduct, liable in appropriate cases for disciplinary action.

11. It is a trite principle that a final order of this Tribunal, enunciating a ratio decidendi, is an operative judgment per se; not contingent on ratification by any higher forum, for its vitality or precedential authority. The fact that Revenue's appeal against the judgment of this Tribunal was rejected only on the ground of bar of limitation and not in affirmation of the conclusions recorded on merits, does not derogate from the principle that a judgment of this Tribunal is per se of binding precedential vitality qua adjudicating authorities lower in the hierarchy, such as a primary adjudicating authority or a Commissioner (Appeals). This is too well settled to justify elaborate analyses and exposition, of this protean principle.

12. Nevertheless, the primary and the lower appellate authorities in this case, despite adverting to the judgment of this Tribunal and without concluding that the judgment had suffered either a temporal or plenary eclipse (on account of suspension or reversal of its ratio by any higher judicial authority), have chosen to ignore judicial discipline and have recorded conclusions diametrically contrary to the judgment of this Tribunal. This is either illustrative of gross incompetence or clear irresponsible conduct and a serious transgression of quasi-judicial norms by the primary and the lower appellate authorities, in this case. Such perverse orders further clog the appellate docket of this Tribunal, already burdened with a huge pendency, apart from accentuating the faith deficit of the citizen/assessee, in departmental adjudication."



8.2 I also rely on the decision rendered by the Hon'ble Gujarat High Court in the case of Claris Lifesciences Ltd. reported as 2013 (298) E.L.T. 45 (Guj.), wherein it has been held that,

“8. The adjudicating officer acts as a quasi judicial authority. He is bound by the law of precedent and binding effect of the order passed by the higher authority or Tribunal of superior jurisdiction. If his order is thought to be erroneous by the Department, the Department can as well prefer appeal in terms of the statutory provisions contained in the Central Excise Act, 1944.

9. Counsel for the petitioners brought to our notice the decision of the Apex Court in the case of *Union of India v. Kamlakshi Finance Corporation Ltd.* reported in 1991 (55) E.L.T. 433 (S.C.) in which while approving the criticism of the High Court of the Revenue Authorities not following the binding precedent, the Apex Court observed that :-

“6...It cannot be too vehemently emphasized that it is of utmost importance that, in disposing of the quasi-judicial issues before them, revenue officers are bound by the decisions of the appellate authorities. The order of the Appellate Collector is binding on the Assistant Collectors working within his jurisdiction and the order of the Tribunal is binding upon the Assistant Collectors and the Appellate Collectors who function under the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. The principles of judicial discipline require that the orders of the higher appellate authorities should be followed unreservedly by the subordinate authorities. The more fact that the order of the appellate authority is not “acceptable” to the department - in itself an objectionable phrase - and is the subject-matter of an appeal can furnish no ground for not following it unless its operation has been suspended by a competent Court. If this healthy rule is not followed, the result will only be undue harassment to assesseees and chaos in administration of tax laws.

7. The impression or anxiety of the Assistant Collector that, if he accepted the assessee's contention, the department would lose revenue and would also have no remedy to have the matter rectified is also incorrect. Section 35D confers adequate powers on the department in this regard. Under sub-section (1), where the Central Board of Excise and Customs (Direct Taxes) comes across any order passed by the Collector of Central Excise with the legality or propriety of which it is not satisfied, it can direct the Collector to apply to the Appellate Tribunal for the determination of such points arising out of the decision or order as may be specified by the Board in its order. Under sub-section (2) the Collector of Central Excise, when he comes across any order passed by an authority subordinate to him, if not satisfied with its legality or propriety, may direct such authority to apply to the Collector (Appeals) for the determination of such points arising out of the decision or order as may be specified by the Collector of Central Excise in his order and there is a further right of appeal to the department. The position now, therefore, is that, if any order passed by an Assistant Collector or Collector is adverse to the interests of the Revenue, the immediately higher administrative authority has the power to have the matter satisfactorily resolved by taking up the issue to the Appellate Collector or the Appellate Tribunal as the case may be. In the light of these amended provisions, there can be no justification for any Assistant Collector or Collector refusing to follow the order of the Appellate Collector or the Appellate Tribunal, as the case may be, even where he may have some reservations on its correctness. He



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has to follow the order of the higher appellate authority. This may instantly cause some prejudice to the Revenue but the remedy is also in the hands of the same officer. He has only to bring the matter to the notice of the Board or the Collector so as to enable appropriate proceedings being taken under S. 35E(1) or (2) to keep the interests of the department alive. If the officer's view is the correct one, it will no doubt be finally upheld and the Revenue will get the duty, though after some delay which such procedure would entail."

8.3 I also rely on the decision rendered by the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of Industrial Mineral Company (IMC) reported as 2018 (18) G.S.T.L. 396 (Mad.), wherein it has been held that,

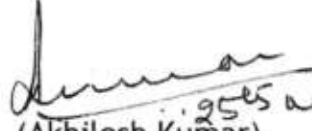
"8. This Court is of the view that when the order passed by the Tribunal has not been stayed or set aside by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is the bounden duty of the Adjudicating Authority to follow the law laid down by the Tribunal. Since a binding decision has not been followed by the Adjudicating Authority in this case, this Court can interfere straightaway without relegating the assessee to file an appeal."

9. In view of above discussion, I hold that the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority confirming the demand of Rs. 6,95,000/- for erroneous sanction of refund is not legally sustainable on judicial discipline and is required to be set aside and I order to do so.

10. Accordingly, I set aside the impugned order and allow the appeal.

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

11. The appeal filed by the Appellant stand disposed off in above terms.


(Akhilesh Kumar)
Commissioner (Appeals)

Attested



(V.T.SHAH)

Superintendent (Appeals)

By RPAD

To, M/s. Sanjay Products, 32-33 Shreeji Industrial Estate, Rajkot Highway, Morbi.	सेवा में, मैसर्स संजय प्रोडक्ट्स, 32-33, श्रीजी इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट राजकोट हाइवे, मोरबी।
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प्रतिलिपि :-

- 1) मुख्य आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, गुजरात क्षेत्र, अहमदाबाद को जानकारी हेतु।
- 2) आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, राजकोट आयुक्तालय, राजकोट को आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु।
- 3) सहायक आयुक्त, वस्तु एवं सेवा कर एवं केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क, मोरबी-1 मण्डल, को आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु।
- 4) गार्ड फ़ाइल।

