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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE)
8th Floor, World Trade Centre, Centre - I, Cuffe Parade,
Mumbai-400 005

F.No. 373/171/B/14-RA

1863

Date of Issue 26/07/2018

ORDER NO. 487/2018-CUS (SZ) / ASRA / MUMBAI/ DATED 29.06.2018 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PASSED BY SHRI ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA , PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER & EX-OFFICIO ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, UNDER SECTION 129DD OF THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962.

Applicant : Smt. Lettisia Nirmala

Respondent : Commissioner of Customs, Chennai.

Subject : Revision Application filed, under Section 129DD of the Customs Act, 1962 against the Order-in-Appeal No. C. Cus No. 1803/2013 dated 05.12.2013 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Chennai.



ORDER

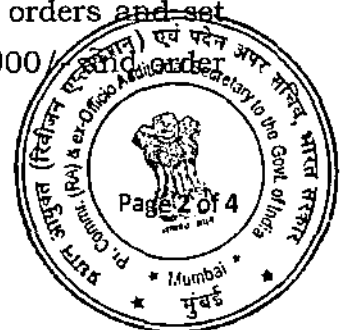
This revision application has been filed by Smt. Lettisia Nirmala (herein referred to as Applicant) against the order no 1803/2013 dated 05.12.2013 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Chennai.

2. Briefly stated the facts of the case are that the applicant, a Sri Lankan National; arrived at the Chennai Airport on 18.03.2013. The Examination of her baggage and person resulted in the recovery of 2 gold bangles and a gold ring totally weighing 94.8 gms totally valued at Rs. 2,69,777/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty nine thousand Seven hundred and Seventy seven). After due process of the law vide Order-In-Original No. 288 Batch A dated 18.03.2013 the Original Adjudicating Authority ordered confiscation of the impugned gold under Section 111 (d), (l), (m) and (o) of the Customs Act read with Section 3 (3) of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act. The Original Adjudicating Authority allowed redemption of the gold bangles on payment of a fine of Rs. 1,35,000/- and also imposed penalty of Rs. 27,000/- under Section 112 (a). Aggrieved by the said order, the applicant filed appeal before the Commissioner (Appeals) who vide Order-In-Appeal C.Cus No. 1803/2013 dated 05.12.2013 rejected the appeal of the applicant.

4. The applicant has filed this Revision Application interalia on the following grounds that

4.1 The order of the appellate authority is bad in law, weight of evidence and probabilities of the case; that both the Respondents failed to see that a true declaration was made by the Applicant and nothing was concealed or misdeclared; that the request for re-export of the gold was not considered; the value adopted by the authorities is on the higher side; that both the Respondents failed to see that the Applicant had opted for the Red Channel proving his bonafides that she has got dutiable goods. However the officers have totally ignored this and registered a case against the Applicant; that both the Respondents have ignored orders of the High Court of judicature at Bombay has granted re-export in similar matters.

4.2 The Revision Applicant prays that the Hon'ble Revision Authority may be pleased to set aside both the lower authorities orders and set aside and fine of Rs. 1,35,000/- and penalty of Rs. 27,000/- and order for re-export of the same and thereby render justice.

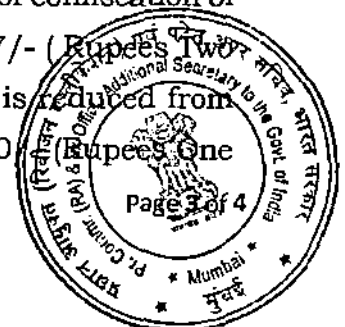


5. A personal hearing in the case was scheduled to be held on 22.03.2018, the Advocate for the respondent Shri K. Mohammed Ismail in his letter dated 21.03.2018 informed that his clients are unable to send their counsel all the way to Mumbai from Chennai and requested that the personal hearing may be waived and the grounds of the Revision Application may be taken as arguments for this Revision, and decide the cases as per relief sought for in the prayer of the Revision and oblige. The Applicant pleaded that the delay in filing the Revision Application by 45 days may be condoned due to case file mishap in the office of the Advocate the adjudication order was misplaced by the Applicant inadvertently. Nobody from the department attended the personal hearing.

6. The Government has gone through the facts of the case. In the interest of justice, delay of 45 days is condoned and revision application is decided on merits. A written declaration of gold was not made by the Applicant as required under Section 77 of the Customs Act, 1962 and had she not been intercepted she would have gone without paying the requisite duty, under the circumstances confiscation of the gold is justified.

7. However, the facts of the case state that the Applicant had not cleared the Green Channel exit, in fact there is no allegation that the Applicant tried to use the Green channel. The Applicant was wearing the gold. The gold was recovered from her person and there is no allegation that the gold was ingeniously concealed. The CBEC Circular 09/2001 gives specific directions to the Customs officer in case the declaration form is incomplete/not filled up, the proper Customs officer should help the passenger record to the oral declaration on the Disembarkation Card and only thereafter should countersign/stamp the same, after taking the passenger's signature. Thus, mere non-submission of the declaration cannot be held against the Applicant. Considering all factors, Government is of the opinion that a lenient view can be taken in the matter. The Applicant has pleaded for re-export of the gold and the Government is inclined to accept her plea. The impugned Order in Appeal therefore needs to be modified.

8. Taking into consideration the foregoing discussion, Government allows redemption of the gold for re-export. The redemption fine in lieu of confiscation of the gold totally weighing 94.8 gms totally valued at Rs. 2,69,777/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Sixty nine thousand Seven hundred and Seventy seven) is reduced from Rs. 1,35,000/- (One lakh thirty five thousand) to Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One



lakh) under section 125 of the Customs Act, 1962. Government also observes that facts of the case justify slight reduction in penalty imposed. The penalty imposed on the Applicant is therefore reduced from Rs. 27,000/- (Rupees Twenty seven thousand) to Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty thousand) under section 112(a) of the Customs Act, 1962.

9. The impugned Order in Appeal is modified as detailed above. Revision application is partly allowed on above terms.

10. So, ordered.

Ashok Kumar Mehta
29.6.18

(ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA)
Principal Commissioner & ex-officio
Additional Secretary to Government of India

ORDER No. ⁴⁸⁷/2018-CUS (SZ) /ASRA/MUMBAI

DATED 29-06-2018

To,

Smt. Lettisia Nirmala
c/o K. Mohamed Ismail
Advocate
New No. 102 (old No. 271)
Linghi Chetty Street,
Chennai - 1, Tamilnadu.

ATTESTED

Sankarsan Munda
27/7/18
SANKARSAN MUNDA
Asstt. Commissioner of Custom & C. Ex.

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner of Customs, Anna International Airport, Chennai.
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Custom House, Chennai.
3. Sr. P.S. to AS (RA), Mumbai.
4. Guard File.
5. Spare Copy.

