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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. 371/74/B/14-RA/1569

Date of Issue 21/09/2018

ORDER NO. 674/2018-CUS (WZ) / ASRA / MUMBAI/ DATED 31.08.2018 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 : Shri Mohammed Ansar Fathuma R

Respondent: Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai.

Subject : Revision Application filed, under Section 129DD of the Customs Act, 1962 against the Order-in-Appeal No. MUM-CUSTOM-PAX-APP-360 & 361/14-15 dated 28.08.2014 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Mumbai - III.



under law, further stating, the only allegation is that she did not declare the gold.

5.2 The Revision Applicant prayed that the Honble Revisionary authority may be pleased to allow re-export of the gold and set aside or reduce the redemption fine and personal penalty and render justice.

6. A personal hearing in the case was scheduled to be held on 16.08.2018, the Advocate for the respondent Shri N. J. Heera attended the hearing, she reiterated the submissions filed in Revision Application and pleaded for re-export of gold and requested for a lenient view to be taken in the matter. Nobody from the department attended the personal hearing.

7. The Government has gone through the facts of the case. A written declaration of goods and currency was not made by the Applicant as required under Section 77 of the Customs Act, 1962 and under the circumstances confiscation of the gold is justified.

8. However, the facts of the case state that the Applicant is a foreign national and had not cleared the Green Channel. The impugned gold was worn and carried by the Applicant and it was not indigenously concealed. Import of gold is restricted not prohibited. There is no dispute regarding ownership of the gold. The Applicant is a frequent traveler, but there are no previous offences registered against the Applicant. 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, ~~moreso because he is a foreigner.~~

9. There are a catena of judgments which align with the view that the discretionary powers vested with the lower authorities under section 125(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 have to be exercised. In view of the above facts, the Original adjudicating authority has rightly allowed the release of the gold on payment of redemption fine and penalty. The Applicant has pleaded for re-export. Government also observes that the Applicant is a foreign national. Under the circumstances the Government is inclined to accept the plea for re-export.



Government however observes that the redemption fine of Rs. 2,00,000/- and penalty of Rs. 70,000/- on gold valued at 224 grams totally valued at Rs. 5,70,806/- (Rupees Five lakhs Seventy thousand Eight hundred and Six) has to be appropriate in case the gold is allowed to be redeemed for re-export. The impugned Order in Appeal therefore needs to be set aside and the Order in original needs to be modified. Further, Government holds that no penalty is imposable under section 114AA of the Customs Act,1962 as this provision is not attracted in baggage cases.

10. The Government, allows re-export of the gold jewelry 224 grams totally valued at Rs. 5,70,806/- (Rupees Five lakhs Seventy thousand Eight hundred and Six) on payment of redemption fine of Rs...3,00,000/- (Rupees Three lakhs). and penalty of Rs. 60,000/- (Rupees Sixty Thousand). The penalty of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five thousand) imposed under section 114AA of the Customs Act,1962 has been incorrectly imposed, the same is therefore set aside.

11. Revision application is partly allowed on above terms.

12. So, ordered.

(Signature)
21.8.18

(ASHOK KUMAR MEHTA)

Principal Commissioner & ex-officio
Additional Secretary to Government of India

ORDER No.674/2018-CUS (WZ) /ASRA/MUMBAI

DATED 31.08.2018

To,

Shri Mohammed Ansar Fathuma R
C/o Shri N. J. Heera, Advocate
Ground Floor, 41, Mint Road,
Opp GPO,
Fort, Mumbai-1.

ATTESTED

(Signature)
21.8.18
S.R. HIRULKAR
Assistant Commissioner (R.A.)

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner of Customs, CSI Airport, Mumbai.
2. The Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Mumbai-III.
3. Sr. P.S. to AS (RA), Mumbai.
4. Guard File.
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