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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. 380/128-A/B/16-RA / 185

Date of Issue 29.11.2018

ORDER NO. 935/2018-CUS (WZ)/ASRA/MUMBAI DATED 31.10.2018 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 : Commissioner of Customs, CSI Airport, Mumbai

Respondent : Shri Mohammad Imran Chadva

Subject : Revision Application filed, under Section 129DD of the Customs Act, 1962 against the Order-in-Appeal No. MUM-CUSTM-PAX-APP-41-16-17 dated 09.05.2016 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Mumbai-III.

ORDER

This revision application has been filed by The Pr. Commissioner of Customs, CSI Airport, Mumbai (herein referred to as Applicant) against the order MUM-CUSTM-PAX-APP-41-16-17 dated 09.05.2016 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Mumbai-III.

2. Briefly stated facts of the case are that the Officers of Customs intercepted Shri Imran Chadva, at the CSI Airport, Mumbai on 26.07.2014 after clearing himself from the green channel. Examination of his trolley resulted in recovery of a gold strip totally weighing 622 grams valued at Rs. 16,04,605/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Four Thousand Six hundred and five). The gold strip was taped on the inner side of the handle of the trolley carried by the passenger.

3. After due process of the law vide Order-In-Original No. ADC/ML/ADJN/186/2015-16 dated 16.10.2015 the Original Adjudicating Authority ordered absolute confiscation of the gold under Section 111 (d) (l) and (m) of the Customs Act, 1962 and imposed penalty of Rs. 1,60,000/- under Section 112 (a) of the Customs Act, 1962.

4. Aggrieved by this order the respondent filed an appeal with the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Commissioner (Appeals) vide his order No. MUM-CUSTM-PAX-APP-41-16-17 dated 09.05.2016, allowed the gold to be redeemed on payment of Rs. 2,50,000/- as redemption fine along with the penalty of Rs. 1,60,000/- already imposed and partially allowed the appeal of the Respondent.

5. Aggrieved with the above order the Applicant has filed this revision application inter alia on the grounds that;

5.1 The respondent has admitted to the non-declaration concealment and the recovery of the seized gold; The manner of recovery of the gold indicates that the concealment was ingenious and premediated; The Passenger has failed to make a true declaration; The case laws cited by the Appellate order do not apply to the instant case; The Commissioner (Appeals) has erred in granting release of the gold under section 125 of Customs Act, 1962 as this is the discretionary power of the Adjudicating Authority; Had the passenger not been intercepted he would have

succeeded in smuggling the gold; The adjudicating authority is correct in ordering absolute confiscation of the gold and the same is supported by decisions of the Supreme Court; Releasing the gold on redemption fine and penalty depends on the facts and circumstances of the case; The grounds mentioned by the Commissioner (Appeals) is not proper in the eyes of the law.

6. In view of the above, the Respondent and his Advocate was called upon to show cause as to why the order in Appeal should be annulled or modified as deemed fit, and accordingly a personal hearings in the case were scheduled. Shri R. Kulkarni Superintendent, Customs Mumbai, attended the hearing and reiterated the submissions in the Revision Applications and pleaded that the Order in Appeal be set aside. However, neither the Respondent nor his advocate attended the said hearing. The case is therefore being decided on merits.

7. The Government has gone through the case records. It is observed that the respondent did not declare the gold and gold strip was ingeniously concealed on the inner side of the handle of the trolley carried by the passenger. The Respondent has concealed the gold deliberately so as avoiding detection and evade Customs duty and smuggle the gold into India. This is not a simple case of mis-declaration. In this case the Respondent has blatantly tried to smuggle the gold into India in contravention of the provisions of the Customs, 1962 by concealing the gold in order to hoodwink the Customs Officers. The said offence was committed in a premeditated and clever manner and clearly indicates mensrea, and that the Respondent had willfully taken part in the smuggling operation and if he was not intercepted before the exit, the gold would have been taken out without payment of customs duty.

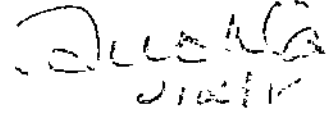
8. The above acts have therefore rendered the Respondent liable for penal action under section 112 (a) of the Customs Act, 1962. The Government therefore holds that the Original Adjudicating Authority has rightly confiscated the gold absolutely and imposed penalty. The impugned Revision Application is therefore liable to be upheld and the order of the Appellate authority is liable to be set aside.

9. Accordingly, The impugned Order in Appeal No. MUM-CUSTM-PAX-APP-41-16-17 dated 09.05.2016 passed by the Commissioner of Customs (Appeals),

Mumbai-III is set aside. The order of the Original Adjudication authority is therefore upheld as legal and proper.

10. Revision application is accordingly allowed on terms mentioned supra.

11. So, ordered.



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

ORDER No. ⁹³⁵/2018-CUS (WZ) /ASRA/MUMBAI.

DATED 31.10.2018

To,

1. The Commissioner of Customs,
Custom House,
Rajaji Salai,
Tiruchirappalli.
2. Shri Mohammad Imran Chadva
Lal Palace ki Galli,
Nehru Colony,
Khudala Falna Station,
The- BaliPali,
Rajasthan 306 116.

Copy to:

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