

Finance Act 2005

Chapter 4 - Indirect Taxes

Section 65 - Amendment of section 28E

In section 28E of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Act),--

(a) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:--

'(c) "applicant" means--

(i) (a) a non-resident setting up a joint venture in India in collaboration with a non-resident or a resident; or

(b) a resident setting up a joint venture in India in collaboration with a non-resident; or

(c) a wholly owned subsidiary Indian company, of which the holding company is a foreign company, who or which, as the case may be, proposes to undertake any business activity in India;

(ii) a joint venture in India; or

(iii) a resident falling within any such class or category of persons, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf,

and which or who, as the case may be, makes application for advance ruling under sub-section (1) of section 28H;';

(b) in clause (e), for the words "Authority for Advance Rulings", the words and brackets "Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax)" shall be substituted.

Section 66 - Amendment of section 28F

In section 28F of the Customs Act, in sub-section (1), for the words ' "the Authority for Advance Rulings" ', the words and brackets "the Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax)" shall be substituted.

Section 67 - Amendment of section 28H

In section 28H of the Customs Act, in sub-section (2), after clause (d), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:--

"(e) determination of Rules of Origin of goods and such other matters relating thereto."

Section 68 - Amendment of section 127MA

In section 127MA of the Customs Act,--

(a) in sub-section (6), for the word, figures and letter "section 127C", the words, figures, letters and brackets "section 127C and sub-section (1) of section 127-I" shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (7), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:--

"(8) The Settlement Commission may, if it is of opinion that any person who made an application under sub-section (5) has not co-operated with the proceedings before it, send the case back to the Appellate Tribunal and the provisions containing in section 129A, section 129B and section 129C shall, so far as may be, apply accordingly."

Section 69 - Amendment of section 128A

In section 128 A of the Customs Act, in sub-section (5), for the words "and the Commissioner of Customs", the words ", the Chief Commissioner of Customs and the Commissioner of Customs" shall be substituted

Section 70 - Amendment of section 129A

In section 129A of the Customs Act,--

(a) after sub-section (1A), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:--

"(1B) (i) The Board may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute such Committees as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(ii) Every Committee constituted under clause (i) shall consist of two Chief Commissioners of Customs or two Commissioners of Customs, as the case may be.";

(b) in sub-section (2),--

(i) for the words "The Commissioner of Customs may, if he is", the words "The Committee of Commissioners of Customs may, if it is" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "on his behalf", the words "on its behalf" shall be substituted.

Section 71 - Amendment of section 129D

In section 129D of the Customs Act, for the word "Board", occurring in sub-sections (1) and (3), the words "Committee of Chief Commissioners of Customs" shall respectively be substituted.

Section 72 to 74 - Customs tariff

Section 72 - Substitution of new section for section 3

For section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975(51 of 1975) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Tariff Act), the following section shall be substituted, namely:--

'3. Levy of additional duty equal to excise duty sales tax, local taxes and other charges:-- (1) Any article which is imported into India shall, in addition, be liable to a duty (hereafter in this section referred to as the additional duty) equal to the excise duty for the time being leviable on a like article if produced or manufactured in India and if such excise duty on a like article is leviable at any percentage of its value, the additional duty to which the imported article shall be so liable shall be calculated at that percentage of the value of the imported article:

Provided that in case of any alcoholic liquor for human consumption imported into India, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify the rate of additional duty having regard to the excise duty for the time being leviable on a like alcoholic liquor produced or manufactured in different States or, if a like alcoholic liquor is not produced or manufactured in any State, then, having regard to the excise duty which would be leviable for the time being in different States on the class or description of alcoholic liquor to which such imported alcoholic liquor belongs.

Explanation.-- In this sub-section, the expression "the excise duty for the time being leviable on a like article if produced or manufactured in India" means the excise duty for the time being in force which would be leviable on a like article if produced or manufactured in India or, if a like article is not so produced or manufactured, which would be leviable on the class or description of articles to which the imported article belongs, and where such duty is leviable at different rates, the highest duty.

(2) For the purpose of calculating under sub-sections (1) and (3), the additional duty on any imported article, where such duty is leviable at any percentage of its value, the value of the imported article shall, notwithstanding anything contained in section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962), be the aggregate of--

(i) the value of the imported article determined under sub-section (1) of section 14 or the tariff value of such article fixed under sub-section (2) of that section, as the case may be; and

(ii) any duty of customs chargeable on that article under section 12 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962), and any sum chargeable on that article under any law for the time being in force as an addition to, and in the same manner as, a duty of customs, but does not include--

- (a) the duty referred to in sub-sections (1), (3) and (5);
- (b) the safeguard duty referred to in sections 8B and 8C;
- (c) the countervailing duty referred to in section 9; and
- (d) the anti-dumping duty referred to in section 9A:

Provided that in case of an article imported into India,--

(a) in relation to which it is required, under the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976(60 of 1976) or the rules made thereunder or under any other law for the time being in force, to declare on the package thereof the retail sale price of such article; and

(b) where the like article produced or manufactured in India, or in case where such like article is not so produced or manufactured, then, the class or description of articles to which the imported article belongs, is the goods specified by notification in the Official Gazette under sub-section (1) of section 4A of the Central Excise Act, 1944(1 of 1944),

the value of the imported article shall be deemed to be the retail sale price declared on the imported article less such amount of abatement, if any, from such retail sale price as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, allow in respect of such like article under sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Central Excise Act, 1944(1 of 1944).

Explanation.--Where on any imported article more than one retail sale price is declared, the maximum of such retail sale price shall be deemed to be the retail sale price for the purposes of this section.

(3) If the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest to levy on any imported article [whether on such article duty is leviable under sub-section (1) or not] such additional duty as would counter-balance the excise duty leviable on any raw materials, components and ingredients of the same nature as, or similar to those, used in the production or manufacture of such article, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that such imported article shall, in addition, be liable to an additional duty representing such portion of the excise duty leviable on such raw materials, components and ingredients as, in either case, may be determined by rules made by the Central Government in this behalf.

(4) In making any rules for the purposes of sub-section (3), the Central Government shall have regard to the average quantum of the excise duty payable on the raw materials, components or ingredients used in the production or manufacture of such like article.

(5) If the Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest to levy on any imported article [whether on such article duty is leviable under sub-section (1) or, as the case may be, sub-section (3) or not] such additional duty as would counter-balance the sales tax, value added tax, local tax or any other charges for the time being leviable on a like article on its sale, purchase or transportation in India, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct that such imported article shall, in addition, be liable to an additional duty at a rate not exceeding four per cent of the value of the imported article as specified in that notification.

Explanation.--In this sub-section, the expression "sales tax, value added tax, local tax or any other charges for the time being leviable on a like article on its sale, purchase or transportation in India" means the sales tax, value added tax, local tax or other charges for the time being in force, which would be leviable on a like article if sold, purchased or transported in India or, if a like article is not so sold, purchased or transported, which would be leviable on the class or description of articles to which the imported article belongs, and where such taxes, or, as the case may be, such charges are leviable at different rates, the highest such tax or, as the case may be, such charge.

(6) For the purpose of calculating under sub-section (5), the additional duty on any imported article, the value of the imported article shall, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), or section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962), be the aggregate of--

(i) the value of the imported article determined under sub-section (1) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962) or the tariff value of such article fixed under sub-section (2) of that section, as the case may be; and

(ii) any duty of customs chargeable on that article under section 12 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962), and any sum chargeable on that article under any law for the time being in force as an addition to, and in the same manner as, a duty of customs, but does not include--

- (a) the duty referred to in sub-section (5);
- (b) the safeguard duty referred to in sections 8B and 8C;
- (c) the countervailing duty referred to in section 9; and
- (d) the anti-dumping duty referred to in section 9A.

(7) The duty chargeable under this section shall be in addition to any other duty imposed under this Act or under any other law for the time being in force.

(8) The provisions of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962) and the rules and regulations made thereunder, including those relating to drawbacks, refunds and exemption from duties shall, so far as may be, apply to the duty chargeable under this section as they apply in relation to the duties leviable under that Act.'

Section 73 - Omission of section 3A

Section 3A of the Customs Tariff Act shall be omitted.

Section 74 - Amendment of First Schedule

In the Customs Tariff Act, the First Schedule shall be amended in the manner as specified in the Second Schedule.

Section 75 to 85 - Excise

Section 75 - Amendment of section 5A

In section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944(1 of 1944) (hereinafter referred to as the Central Excise Act), after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:--

"(1A) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where an exemption under sub-section (1) in respect of any excisable goods from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon has been granted absolutely, the manufacturer of such excisable goods shall not pay the duty of excise on such goods."

Section 76 - Amendment of section 23A

In section 23A of the Central Excise Act,--

(a) for clause (c), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:--

'(c) "applicant" means--

- (i) (a) a non-resident setting up a joint venture in India in collaboration with a non-resident or a resident; or
- (b) a resident setting up a joint venture in India in collaboration with a non-resident; or
- (c) a wholly owned subsidiary Indian company, of which the holding company is a foreign company, who or which, as the case may be, proposes to undertake any business activity in India;
- (ii) a joint venture in India; or

(iii) a resident falling within any such class or category of persons, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify in this behalf,

and which or who, as the case may be, makes application for advance ruling under sub-section(1) of section 23C;';

(b) in clause (e), for the words "Authority for Advance Rulings", the words and brackets "Authority for Advance Rulings (Central Excise, Customs and Service Tax)" shall be substituted.

Section 77 - Amendment of section 32PA

In section 32PA of the Central Excise Act,--

(a) in sub-section (6), for the word, figures and letter "section 32F", the words, figures, letters and brackets "section 32F and sub-section (1) of section 32L" shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (7), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:--

"(8) The Settlement Commission may, if it is of opinion that any person who made an application under sub-section (5) has not co-operated with the proceedings before it, send the case back to the Appellate Tribunal and the provisions containing in section 35B, section 35C and section 35D shall, so far as may be, apply accordingly."

Section 78 - Amendment of section 35A

In section 35A of the Central Excise Act, in sub-section (5), for the words "Commissioner of Central Excise", the words "Chief Commissioner of Central Excise and the Commissioner of Central Excise" shall be substituted.

Section 79 - Amendment of section 35B

In section 35B of the Central Excise Act,--

(a) after sub-section (1A), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:--

"(1B) (i) The Central Board of Excise and Customs constituted under the Central Boards of Revenue Act, 1963(54 of 1963) may by notification in the in the Official Gazette, constitute such Committees as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

(ii) Every Committee constituted under clause (i)"

(b) in sub-section (2),--

(i) for the words "The Commissioner of Central Excise may, if he is", the words "The Committee of Chief Commissioners of Central Excise may, if it is" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the words "on his behalf", the words "on its behalf" shall be substituted.

Section 80 - Amendment of section 35E

In section 35E of the Central Excise Act, for the word "Board", occurring in sub-sections (1) and (3), the words "Committee of Chief Commissioners of Central Excise" shall respectively be substituted.

Section 81 - Substitution of new Schedule for Third Schedule

For the Third Schedule to the Central Excise Act, the Schedule specified in the Third Schedule shall be substituted.

Section 82 - Amendment of Central Excise Rules, 1944

(1) In the Central Excise Rules, 1944, made by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Exercise Act.--

(a) rule 57CC as inserted by the Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996, published in the Official Gazette, vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 324(E), dated the 23rd July, 1996;

(b) rule 57CC as substituted by the Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 1997, published in the Official Gazette, vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 122(E), dated the 1st March, 1997; and

(c) rule 57D as substituted by the Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000, published in the Official Gazette, vide notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 203(E), dated the 1st March, 2000, as substituted as rule 57AD by rule 5 of the Central Excise [Second Amendment (Amendment)] Rules, 2000, published in the Gazette of India, vide notification of Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 298(E), dated the 31st March, 2000,

shall stand amended and shall be deemed to have been amended retrospectively in the manner as specified in column (3) of the Fourth Schedule on and from the corresponding date specified in column (4) of that Schedule against each of the rules specified in column (2) of that Schedule.

(2) Any action taken or anything done or purported to have been taken or done, at any time during the period

commencing on and from the 1st day of August, 1996 and ending with the 30th day of June, 2001 under the rule as amended by sub-section (1), shall be deemed to be, and always to have been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively, taken or done as if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times, and accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority--

(a) no suit or other proceedings shall be instituted, maintained or continued in any court, tribunal or, as the case may be, other authority against the Central Government or Central Excise Officer for recovery of the amount under the rule as amended by sub-section (1) and no enforcement shall be made by any court, tribunal or other authority of any decree or order for non-recovery of the said amount, as if the amendments made by that sub-section had been in force at all material times;

(b) recovery shall be made of the amount which has not been paid but which would have been paid as if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times, within a period of thirty days from the day on which the Finance Bill, 2005 receives the assent of the President.

(3) Notwithstanding the supersession of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 referred to in sub-section (1), for the purpose of that sub-section, the Central Government shall have and shall be deemed to have the power to make rules with retrospective effect as if the Central Government had the power to make rules under section 37 of the Central Excise Act, retrospectively at all material times.

Explanation.--For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that no act or omission on the part of any person shall be punishable as an offence which would not have been so punishable if this section had not come into force.

Section 83 - Amendment of rule 6 of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2001

(1) In the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2001, made by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excise Act, rule 6 thereof as published in the Official Gazette vide notification of the Government of India the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 445(E), dated the 21st June, 2001 shall stand amended and shall be deemed to have been amended retrospectively in the manner as specified in column (2) of the Fifth Schedule on and from the corresponding date specified in column (3) or that Schedule against the rule specified in column (1) of that Schedule.

(2) Any action taken or anything done or purported to have been taken or done at any time during the period commencing on and from the 1st day of July, 2001 and ending with the 28th day of February, 2002 under the rule as amended by sub-section (1), shall be deemed to be, and always to have been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively taken or done as the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times, and accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority--

(a) no suit or other proceedings shall be instituted, maintained or continued in any court, tribunal or, as the case may be, other authority against the Central Government or Central Excise Officer for recovery of the amount under the rule as amended by sub-section (1) and no enforcement shall be made by any court, tribunal or other authority of any decree or order for the non-recovery of the said amount, as if the amendments made by that sub-section had been in force at all material times;

(b) recovery shall be made of the amount which has not been paid but which would have been paid as if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times, within a period of thirty days from the day on which the Finance Bill, 2005 receives the assent of the President.

(3) Notwithstanding the supersession of the CENVAT Credit Rules, 2001 referred to in sub-section (1), for the purposes of that sub-section, the Central Government shall have and shall be deemed to have the power to make rules with retrospective effect as if the Central Government had the power to make rules under section 37 of the Central Excise Act, retrospectively at all material times.

Explanation.--For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that no act or omission on the part of any person shall be punishable as an offence which would not have been so punishable if this section had not come into force.

Section 84 - Amendment of notification issued under section 5A of the Central Excise Act

(1) The notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. G.S.R. 277(E), dated the 1st March, 1988, issued under sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excise Act by the Central Government, shall stand amended and shall be deemed to have been amended in the manner as specified in the Sixth Schedule, for the period commencing on and from the 21st day of February, 2000 to the 28th day of February, 2003 (both days inclusive) retrospectively, and accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority, any action taken or anything done or purported to have been taken or done under the said notification, shall be deemed to be and always to have been, for all purposes, as validly or effectively taken or done as if the notification as amended by this sub-section had been in force at all material times.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Central Government shall have and shall be deemed to have the power to amend the said notification referred to in the said sub-section with retrospective effect as if the Central Government had the power to amend the said, notification under sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excise Act, retrospectively, at all material times.

(3) No recovery shall be made of all such amounts of duty or interest or penalty or fine or other charges which have not been collected or, as the case may be, for which demand notices have been issued under section 11A or, recovery proceeding have been initiated under section 11 of the Central Excise Act, as if the amendment made by sub-section (1), had been in force at all material times.

(4) Refund shall be made of all such duties which have been collected but which would not have been so collected if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times, subject to the provisions of section 11B of the Central Excise Act.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 11B of the Central Excise Act, an application for the claim of refund of the duty of excise under sub-section (4) shall be made within one month from the day on which the Finance Bill, 2005 receives assent of the President.

Section 85 - Additional duty of excise (pan masala and certain tobacco products)

- (1) In the case of goods specified in the Seventh Schedule, being goods produced or manufactured in India, there shall be levied and collected for the purposes of the Union, by surcharge, an additional duty of excise, at the rates specified in the said Schedule.
- (2) The additional duty of excise referred to in sub-section (1) shall be in addition to any other duty of excise chargeable on such goods under the Central Excise Act or any other law for the time being in force.
- (3) The provisions of the Central Excise Act and the rules made thereunder, including those relating to refunds and exemptions from duties and imposition of penalty, shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to the levy and collection of the additional duty of excise leviable under this section in respect of goods specified in the Seventh Schedule as they apply in relation to the levy and collection of the duty of excise on such goods under the Central Excise Act or, as the case may be, the rules made thereunder.
-

Section 86 to 87 - Excise tariff

Section 86 - Amendment of First Schedule and Second Schedule

The Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985(5 of 1986) (hereinafter referred to as the Central Excise Tariff Act),--

- (a) the First Schedule shall be amended in the manner specified in the Eighth Schedule;
- (b) the Second Schedule shall be amended in the manner specified in the Ninth Schedule.
-

Section 87 - Amendment of Chapter 15 of First Schedule

(1) In Chapter 15, after NOTE 4, the following NOTE shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted for the period commencing on and from the 1st day of March, 1986 and ending with the 28th day of February, 2005 (both days inclusive), namely:--

"5. In relation to refined edible vegetable oils falling under Heading Nos. or headings 15.02 and 15.03, the process of refining, that is to say, any one or more of the processes, namely, treatment of crude oil with an alkali, bleaching and deodorisation, shall amount to 'manufacture'."

(2) Any action taken or anything done or purported to have been taken or done at any time during the period commencing on and from the 1st day of March, 1986 and ending with the 28th day of February, 2005 (both days inclusive) (hereafter in this section referred to as the said period) under the Central Excise Tariff Act, shall be deemed to be, and to have always been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively taken or done as if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times and, accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority--

(a) all duties of excise levied, assessed or collected during the said period on any excisable goods under the Central Excise Act, shall be deemed to be and shall be deemed always to have been, as validly levied, assessed or collected as if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times;

(b) no suit or other proceeding shall be instituted, maintained or continued in any court, tribunal or other authority for the refund of and no enforcement shall be made by any court, tribunal or other authority of any decree or order directing the refund of, any such duty of excise which have been collected and which would have been validly collected if the amendment made by sub-section (1) had been in force at all material times.

(3) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Central Government shall have and shall be deemed to have the power to amend the Chapter referred to in the said sub-section with retrospective effect as if the Central Government had the power to amend the said Chapter, retrospectively, at all material times.

Explanation.--For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that no act or omission on the part of any person shall be punishable as an offence which would not have been so punishable if this section had not come into force.
