

Finance (No.2) Act, 2004

Section 74 - Validation of certain actions taken by Central Excise Officers

1) The notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 83/2004-Customs (N.T.), dated the 30th June, 2004, published in the Official Gazette vide No.G.S.R. 393(E), dated the 30th June, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as the said notification) shall, for the purposes of hundred per cent. export-oriented undertakings, be deemed to be, and to have always been, for all purposes, in force retrospectively on and from the 11th day of May, 1982 and accordingly, notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment, decree or order of any court, tribunal or other authority-- (a) any action taken or anything done by a Central Excise Officer appointed by the said notification as an officer of customs to discharge the duties of an officer of customs in respect of hundred per cent. export-oriented undertakings, on and from the 11th day of May, 1982 to 30th day of June, 2004, shall, for all purposes, be deemed to be, and to have always been, validly taken or done as if the appointment made by the said notification was in force at all material times; (b) no suit or other proceedings shall be instituted, maintained or continued in any court, tribunal or other authority against the Central Government or the Central Excise Officer appointed as an officer of customs by the said notification for any action taken or anything done in good faith during the discharge of his duties as an officer of customs in respect of hundred per cent. export-oriented undertakings during the period on and from the 11th day of May, 1982 to 30th day of June, 2004, as if the appointment made by the said notification was in force at all material times; (c) recovery made of any amount of duty or interest or penalty or fine or other charges by or under the order or direction of the Central Excise Officer appointed as an officer of customs by the said notification during the period on and from the 11th day of May, 1982 to 30th day of June, 2004 shall be deemed to be valid, and to have always been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively, made as if the appointment made by the said notification was in force at all material times. (2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the Central Board of Excise and Customs shall have and shall be deemed to have always had the power to bring into force the said notification with retrospective effect as if the Central Board of Excise and Customs had the power to bring into force the said notification under section 4 of the Customs Act, 1962(52 of 1962), retrospectively, at all material times. (3) For the purposes of this section, the designations of the officers of customs and the Central Excise Officers as existed before the commencement of the Finance Act, 1995(22 of 1995), shall be deemed to be the corresponding substituted designations as specified in the Tables respectively below section 50 and section 70 of the said Finance Act. Explanation 1.--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 the said notification had not come retrospectively into force. Explanation 2.--For the purposes of this section, "hundred per cent. export-oriented undertaking" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (ii) of Explanation 2 to the proviso to clause (b) of section 3 of the Central Excise Act, 1944(1 of 1944).