



सीमा शुल्क(अपील) आयुक्त का कार्यालय, अहमदाबाद
 OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (APPEALS), AHMEDABAD,
 चौथी मंज़िल 4th Floor, हडको भवन HUDCO Bhawan, ईश्वर भुवन रोड़ Ishwar Bhuvan Road
 नवरंगपुरा Navrangpura, अहमदाबाद Ahmedabad – 380 009
 दूरभाष क्रमांक Tel. No. 079-26589281

DIN – 20250771MN0000115185

क	फ़ाइल संख्या FILE NO.	S/49-114/CUS/AHD/JUN/25-26
ख	अपील आदेश संख्या ORDER-IN-APPEAL NO. (सीमा शुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 की धारा 128क के अंतर्गत)(UNDER SECTION 128A OF THE CUSTOMS ACT, 1962) :	AHD-CUSTM-000-APP-142-25-26
ग	पारितकर्ता PASSED BY	Shri Amit Gupta Commissioner of Customs (Appeals), Ahmedabad
घ	दिनांक DATE	10.07.2025
ङ	उद्भूत अपील आदेश की सं. व दिनांक ARISING OUT OF ORDER-IN-ORIGINAL NO.	Order – In – Original No. 14/AC/ACC/OIO/Arvind/2025-26, dated 03.05.2025
च	अपील आदेश जारी करने की दिनांक ORDER- IN-APPEAL ISSUED ON:	10.07.2025
छ	अपीलकर्ता का नाम व पता NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE APPELLANT:	M/s Arvind Ltd. Naroda Road, Ahmedabad – 380 025



1	यह प्रति उस व्यक्ति के निजी उपयोग के लिए मुफ्त में दी जाती है जिनके नाम यह जारी किया गया है।
	This copy is granted free of cost for the private use of the person to whom it is issued.
2.	सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम 1962 की धारा 129 डी डी (1) (यथा संशोधित) के अधीन निम्नलिखित श्रेणियों के मामलों के सम्बन्ध में कोई व्यक्ति इस आदेश से अपने को आहत महसूस करता हो तो इस आदेश की प्राप्ति की तारीख से 3 महीने के अंदर अपर सचिव/संयुक्त सचिव (आवेदन संशोधन), वित्त मंत्रालय, (राजस्व विभाग) संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली को पुनरीक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।
	Under Section 129 DD(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 (as amended), in respect of the following categories of cases, any person aggrieved by this order can prefer a Revision Application to The Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary (Revision Application), Ministry of Finance, (Department of Revenue) Parliament Street, New Delhi within 3 months from the date of communication of the order.
	निम्नलिखित सम्बन्धित आदेश/Order relating to :
(क)	बैगेज के रूप में आयातित कोई माल।
(a)	any goods imported on baggage
(ख)	भारत में आयात करने हेतु किसी वाहन में लादा गया लेकिन भारत में उनके गन्तव्य स्थान पर उतारे न गए माल या उस गन्तव्य स्थान पर उतारे जाने के लिए अपेक्षित माल उतारे न जाने पर या उस गन्तव्य स्थान पर उतारे गए माल की मात्रा में अपेक्षित माल से कमी हो।
(b)	any goods loaded in a conveyance for importation into India, but which are not unloaded at their place of destination in India or so much of the quantity of such goods as has not been unloaded at any such destination if goods unloaded at such destination are short of the quantity required to be unloaded at that destination.
(ग)	सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 के अध्याय X तथा उसके अधीन बनाए गए नियमों के तहत शुल्क वापसी की अदायगी।
(c)	Payment of drawback as provided in Chapter X of Customs Act, 1962 and the rules made thereunder.
.3	पुनरीक्षण आवेदन पत्र संगत नियमावली में विनिर्दिष्ट प्रारूप में प्रस्तुत करना होगा जिसके अन्तर्गत उसकी जांच की जाएगी और उस के साथ निम्नलिखित कागजात संलग्न होने चाहिए :
	The revision application should be in such form and shall be verified in such manner as may be specified in the relevant rules and should be accompanied by :
(क)	कोर्ट फी एक्ट, 1870 के मद सं. 6 अनुसूची 1 के अधीन निर्धारित किए गए अनुसार इस आदेश की 4 प्रतियां, जिसकी एक प्रति में पचास पैसे की न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट लगा होना चाहिए।
(a)	4 copies of this order, bearing Court Fee Stamp of paise fifty only in one copy as prescribed under Schedule 1 item 6 of the Court Fee Act, 1870.
(ख)	सम्बद्ध दस्तावेजों के अलावा साथ मूल आदेश की 4 प्रतियां, यदि हो
(b)	4 copies of the Order-in-Original, in addition to relevant documents, if any
(ग)	पुनरीक्षण के लिए आवेदन की 4 प्रतियां
(c)	4 copies of the Application for Revision.
(घ)	पुनरीक्षण आवेदन दायर करने के लिए सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 (यथा संशोधित) में निर्धारित फीस जो अन्य रसीद, फीस, दण्ड, जब्ती और विविध मदों के शीर्ष के अधीन आता है में रु. 200/- (रुपए दो सौ मात्र) या रु. 1000/- (रुपए एक हजार मात्र), जैसा भी मामला हो, से सम्बन्धित भुगतान के प्रमाणिक चलान टी.आर.6 की दो प्रतियां। यदि शुल्क, मांगा गया ब्याज, लगाया गया दंड की राशि और रुपए एक लाख या उससे कम हो तो ऐसे फीस के रूप में रु. 200/- और यदि एक लाख से अधिक हो तो फीस के रूप में रु. 1000/-
(d)	The duplicate copy of the T.R.6 challan evidencing payment of Rs.200/- (Rupees two Hundred only) or Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand only) as the case may be, under the Head of other receipts, fees, fines, forfeitures and Miscellaneous Items being the fee prescribed in the Customs Act, 1962 (as amended) for filing a Revision Application. If the amount of duty and interest demanded, fine or penalty levied is one lakh rupees or less, fees as Rs.200/- and if it is more than one lakh rupees, the fee is Rs.1000/-.



4.	मद सं. 2 के अधीन सूचित मामलों के अलावा अन्य मामलों के सम्बन्ध में यदि कोई व्यक्ति इस आदेश से आहत महसूस करता हो तो वे सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम 1962 की धारा 129 ए (1) के अधीन फॉर्म सी.ए.-3 में सीमाशुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क और सेवा कर अपील अधिकरण के समक्ष निम्नलिखित पते पर अपील कर सकते हैं				
	In respect of cases other than these mentioned under item 2 above, any person aggrieved by this order can file an appeal under Section 129 A(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 in form C.A.-3 before the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal at the following address :				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>सीमाशुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क व सेवा कर अपीलिय अधिकरण, पश्चिमी क्षेत्रीय पीठ</td><td>Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, West Zonal Bench</td></tr> <tr> <td>दूसरी मंज़िल, बहुमाली भवन, निकट गिरधरनगर पुल, असारवा, अहमदाबाद-380016</td><td>2nd Floor, Bahumali Bhavan, Nr.Girdhar Nagar Bridge, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380 016</td></tr> </table>	सीमाशुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क व सेवा कर अपीलिय अधिकरण, पश्चिमी क्षेत्रीय पीठ	Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, West Zonal Bench	दूसरी मंज़िल, बहुमाली भवन, निकट गिरधरनगर पुल, असारवा, अहमदाबाद-380016	2 nd Floor, Bahumali Bhavan, Nr.Girdhar Nagar Bridge, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380 016
सीमाशुल्क, केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क व सेवा कर अपीलिय अधिकरण, पश्चिमी क्षेत्रीय पीठ	Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal, West Zonal Bench				
दूसरी मंज़िल, बहुमाली भवन, निकट गिरधरनगर पुल, असारवा, अहमदाबाद-380016	2 nd Floor, Bahumali Bhavan, Nr.Girdhar Nagar Bridge, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380 016				
5.	सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 की धारा 129 ए (6) के अधीन, सीमाशुल्क अधिनियम, 1962 की धारा 129 ए (1) के अधीन अपील के साथ निम्नलिखित शुल्क संलग्न होने चाहिए-				
	Under Section 129 A (6) of the Customs Act, 1962 an appeal under Section 129 A (1) of the Customs Act, 1962 shall be accompanied by a fee of -				
(क)	अपील से सम्बन्धित मामले में जहां किसी सीमाशुल्क अधिकारी द्वारा मांगा गया शुल्क और व्याज तथा लगाया गया दंड की रकम पाँच लाख रुपए या उससे कम हो तो एक हजार रुपए.				
(a)	where the amount of duty and interest demanded and penalty levied by any officer of Customs in the case to which the appeal relates is five lakh rupees or less, one thousand rupees;				
(ख)	अपील से सम्बन्धित मामले में जहां किसी सीमाशुल्क अधिकारी द्वारा मांगा गया शुल्क और व्याज तथा लगाया गया दंड की रकम पाँच लाख रुपए से अधिक हो लेकिन रुपये पचास लाख से अधिक न हो तो; पांच हजार रुपए				
(b)	where the amount of duty and interest demanded and penalty levied by any officer of Customs in the case to which the appeal relates is more than five lakh rupees but not exceeding fifty lakh rupees, five thousand rupees ;				
(ग)	अपील से सम्बन्धित मामले में जहां किसी सीमाशुल्क अधिकारी द्वारा मांगा गया शुल्क और व्याज तथा लगाया गया दंड की रकम पचास लाख रुपए से अधिक हो तो; दस हजार रुपए.				
(c)	where the amount of duty and interest demanded and penalty levied by any officer of Customs in the case to which the appeal relates is more than fifty lakh rupees, ten thousand rupees				
(घ)	इस आदेश के विरुद्ध अधिकरण के सामने, मांगे गए शुल्क के %10 अदा करने पर, जहां शुल्क या शुल्क एवं दंड विवाद में हैं, या दंड के %10 अदा करने पर, जहां केवल दंड विवाद में है, अपील रखा जाएगा।				
(d)	An appeal against this order shall lie before the Tribunal on payment of 10% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute.				
6.	उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 129 (ए) के अन्तर्गत अपील प्राधिकरण के समक्ष दायर प्रत्येक आवेदन पत्र- (क) रोक आदेश के लिए या गलतियों को सुधारने के लिए या किसी अन्य प्रयोजन के लिए किए गए अपील : - अथवा (ख) अपील या आवेदन पत्र का प्रत्यावर्तन के लिए दायर आवेदन के साथ रुपये पाँच सौ का शुल्क भी संलग्न होने चाहिए.				
	Under section 129 (a) of the said Act, every application made before the Appellate Tribunal- (a) in an appeal for grant of stay or for rectification of mistake or for any other purpose; or (b) for restoration of an appeal or an application shall be accompanied by a fee of five Hundred rupees.				



ORDER IN APPEAL

M/s Arvind Ltd., Naroda Road, Ahmedabad – 380 025 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Appellant') have filed the present appeal challenging Order-in-Original No. 14/ACC/OIO/Arvind/2025-26, dated 03.05.2025 (hereinafter referred to as 'the impugned order') passed by the Assistant Commissioner, Customs, Air Cargo Complex, Ahmedabad (hereinafter referred to as 'the adjudicating authority').

2. Facts of the case, in brief, the Appellants had imported goods under EPCG scheme under the following Bills of Entry by availing of exemption under Notification No. 16/2015-Cus:

Sr. No	Bill of Entry No.	Date	Interest on IGST portion (Rs.)
1	7732779	23.05.2020	13,62,816/-
2	7921954	16.06.2020	34,456/-
3	7922193	16.06.2020	1,79,075/-
4	8843600	17.09.2020	1,42,725/-
5	9013870	01.10.2020	7,17,254/-

2.1 The Appellant had re-assessed the above mentioned Bills of Entry for the purpose of payment of Customs Duty owing to relinquishing of the benefit of EPCG License No. 830011837, dated 05.06.2020, No. 830011812, dated 19.05.2020 and No. 839911974, dated 01.09.2020. Upon re-assessment, the systems created a challan for payment of IGST and also the interest was computed by the EDI system and incorporated in the challan. In such circumstances, the Appellant had no option to pay the IGST along with interest in terms of the challan generated by the EDI system. Accordingly, the Appellant have paid the interest amounting to Rs. 24,36,326/-

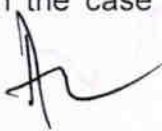
2.2 The Appellants filed refund of Rs. 24,36,326/- before the adjudicating authority on the ground that there was no provision under Section 3 of Customs Tariff Act for charge of interest in respect of IGST. While claiming the refund, the Appellants had placed reliance on the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom) which had been upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

3. The adjudicating authority rejected the refund claim filed by the Appellant vide the impugned order dated 03.05.2025.

4. Being aggrieved with the impugned order passed by the adjudicating authority, the appellants have filed the present appeal. They have, *inter-alia*, raised various contentions and filed detailed submissions as given below in support of their claims:




- In the case of M/s A R Sulphonates *supra* the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay has also considered the issue to recover the interest along with IGST clarified in the Circular No. 16/2023-Customs dated 07.06.2023 and it is held that the said Circular is bad in law;
- IGST was leviable under Section 3 (7) of the Customs Tariff Act and not under Section 12 of the Customs Act. Reliance was placed on the case laws of M/s Hyderabad Industries Ltd. reported at 1999 (108) ELT 321 (SC) and M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom);
- It was not open for the adjudicating authority to interpret the term 'including' in as much as the same was already considered and interpreted by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom) which was upheld by the Hon'ble Apex Court;
- The Adjudicating Authority's reliance on the judgment delivered in the case of M/s Poddar Pigments Ltd. vs. Commissioner, Central Excise & CGST, Jaipur by the Hon'ble CESTAT, New Delhi on 14.10.2024 is mis-placed inasmuch as the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay, in the case of M/s AR Sulphonate (Writ Petition No. 19366 of 2024) decided on 09.04.2025, has dealt with the same issue of charging of Interest on IGST under Section 3 (12) of Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay has specifically ruled that the ratio of the judgment in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. will be applicable. Thus, the judgment of higher judicial forum will prevail over the judgment of the lower judicial forum;
- The term 'assessment' as defined under Section 2 (2) of the Customs Act is the act of determination of dutiability and the amount of duty/tax payable. Thus, the assessment order in terms of Section 17 of the Customs Act is an order concerning assessment of duty and does not cover the charge of interest and therefore, the question of challenging the assessment does not arise. Reliance was placed on the case law of M/s Panacea Biotech Ltd. reported at (2023) 8 Centax 181 (T);
- Interest can be levied and charged on delayed payment of tax only if the statute that levies and charges the tax makes a substantive provision in this behalf. Reliance was placed on the case law of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom), M/s Ukai Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd. reported at 2011 (271) ELT 32 (Guj) and order dated 16.7.1997 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s India Carbon Ltd.;
- There were no provisions under Section 3 (12) of the Customs Tariff Act for charge of interest and as such no interest could have been charged in the case. Reliance was placed on the case laws of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom) and M/s A R Sulphonates Pvt. Ltd. reported at (2025) 29 Centax 212 (Bom);
- The order dated 28.07.2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Special Leave Petition Diary No. 18824/2023 in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra is a




declaration of law by the Hon'ble Supreme Court within the meaning of Article 141 of the Constitution of India;

- No recovery can be affected without the authority of law as provided for under Article 246 of the Constitution of India. Reliance was placed on the case laws of M/s Mafatlal Industries Ltd. v/s Union of India reported at 1997 (089) ELT 247 (SC), M/s Somaiya Organics v/s State of Uttar Pradesh reported at 2001 (130) ELT 03 (SC) and M/s India Carbon Ltd;
- It is no longer *res integra* that the levies under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act cannot be considered as a levy under Section 12 of the Customs Act. The said position of law is enunciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s Hyderabad Industries Ltd. reported at 1999 (108) ELT 321 (SC) and further reiterated by the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. in Writ Petition No. 1848 of 2009 reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom.);
- Section 2 (15) of the Customs Act defines the term 'duty' as '*the duty leviable under this Act*' which is the Customs Act and not the Customs Tariff Act which is a distinct Act. As opposed to such language employed in Section 2 (15) of the Customs Act, Section 3 (12) of the Customs Tariff Act refers to the duty chargeable under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act which is distinct from the duty defined under Section 2(15) of the Customs Act. Thus, the provisions of Customs Act would not apply to duty payable under the Customs Tariff Act;
- The substitution of Section 3 (12) of the Customs Tariff Act vide Section 106 of the Finance (No. 2) Act which has been enacted on 16.08.2024 in itself establishes that prior to 16.08.2024 there was no provision for charging of interest. In the instant case, the matter pertains to a period prior to 16.08.2024 and as such the interest collected by the department is without authority of law and is simply in the nature of deposit which is required to be returned forthwith;
- The powers emanating from Section 25 (1) of the Customs Act are restricted to the act of exempting a part or whole of the duty. There is nothing in the said statute which empowers the department to create the liability of interest by virtue of a notification especially in light of the fact that no statutory provision for interest has been made with respect to the levies under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act. In such circumstances, the interest referred to in the said notification and resultantly in the Bond under Section 143 of the Customs Act is only for the purpose of Basic Customs Duty leviable under Section 12 of the Customs Act read with Section 2 of the Customs Tariff Act and not with respect to the levies under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act;
- In absence of any provision to charge interest on the levies under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act, the interest recovered from them assumes the nature of collection without the authority of law. It is a settled matter of law that any amount collected without the authority of law cannot be retained and has to be returned forthwith. Reliance was placed on the case laws of M/s G B Engineers reported



at 2016 (43) STR 345 (Jhar) and M/s KVR Construction reported at 2012 (26) STR 195 (Kar) as affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as reported at 2018 (14) GSTL J70 (SC)

PERSONAL HEARING:-

5. Personal hearing in the matter was held on 09.07.2025 wherein Shri John Christian, Consultant appeared for hearing on behalf of the Appellant and they reiterated the submissions made in appeal memorandum and placed on record the case law of M/s A R Sulphonates Pvt. Ltd. reported at (2025) 29 Centax 212 (Bom).

DISCUSSION & FINDINGS:

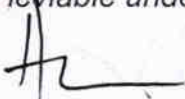
6. I have carefully gone through the impugned order, appeal memorandum filed by the Appellant, submissions made by the appellants during course of hearing as well as the documents and evidences available on record.

7. The short point for consideration is whether interest is chargeable on the levy of IGST. It is a settled principle of law that interest on delayed payment of tax can be levied only when the statute itself makes a clear and substantive provision for such levy. In the absence of an express statutory mandate, interest cannot be imposed merely as a consequence of tax liability. This legal position is supported by the order dated 16.07.1997 in the case of M/s Indian Carbon Ltd. and by the judgment in M/s Ukai Pradesh Sahakari Khand Udyog Mandli Ltd., reported in 2011 (271) E.L.T. 32 (Guj.), wherein it was held that interest is compensatory in nature and cannot be imposed in the absence of statutory authority.

7.1 There is no dispute that IGST is leviable under Section 3(7) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. However, for the purpose of levying interest or imposing penalty, there must be corresponding enabling provisions within Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act itself. The recovery mechanism provided under sub-section (12) of Section 3 does not contain any express provision authorizing the charging of interest or the imposition of penalty. Comparison of the substituted Section 3(12) of the Customs Tariff Act and the erstwhile Section 3 (12) amply demonstrates the above fact and the same are reproduced under for ease of reference:

Statute prior to substitution i.e. before 16.8.2024

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 or tax or cess, as the case may be, chargeable under this section as they apply in relation to the duties leviable under that Act.]




Statue after substitution i.e. after 16.8.2024

"The provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 and all rules and regulations made thereunder, including but not limited to those relating to the date for determination of rate of duty, assessment, non-levy, short-levy, refunds, exemptions, interest, recovery, appeals, offences and penalties shall, as far as may be, apply to the duty or tax or cess, as the case may be, chargeable under this section as they apply in relation to duties leviable under that Act or all rules or regulations made thereunder, as the case may be."

A comparison of the substituted provision vis-à-vis the earlier version of the statute clearly demonstrates that the provisions for charging interest and imposing penalty in respect of IGST levied under Section 3 (7) of the Customs Tariff Act were introduced only with effect from 16.08.2024. Prior to this substitution, there existed no enabling provision under Section 3 (12) of the Customs Tariff Act to authorize the levy of interest or imposition of penalty in connection with IGST.

7.2 The amended Section 3 (12) of the Customs Tariff Act is prospective in nature and as such the provision for charging of interest would be applicable w.e.f. 16.08.2024 only. My view is supported by the case law of M/s A R Sulphonates Pvt. Ltd. reported at (2025) 29 Centax 212 (Bom) wherein the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay has observed as under:

66. Further, as far as the applicability of Section 3 (12), after its amendment by Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, dated 16th August, 2024, is concerned, it would be appropriate to first refer to the provisions of the amended Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act. Amended Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act reads as under:-

"12:- The provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) and all rules and regulations made thereunder, including but not limited to those relating to the date for determination of rate of duty, assessment, non-levy, short levy, refunds, exemptions, interest, recovery, appeals, offences and penalties shall, as far as may be, apply to the duty or tax or cess, as the case may be, chargeable under this section as they apply in relation to duties leviable under that Act or all rules or regulations made thereunder, as the case may be."

67. In our view, the amended Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act is prospective in nature and would apply only with effect from 16th August, 2024.

7.3 The issue of whether there existed a statutory provision for charging interest and imposing penalty on levies under Section 3 of the Customs Tariff Act is now no longer res integra. The Hon'ble Bombay High Court, in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., reported at (2023) 3 Centax 261 (Bom), categorically held that Section 3 (6) of the



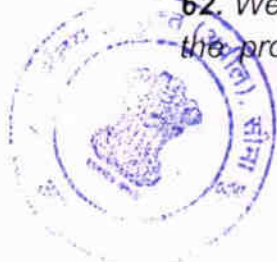
Customs Tariff Act [now renumbered as Section 3(12)] does not authorize the levy of interest or imposition of penalty in respect of duties levied under Section 3 of the Act. This decision of the Hon'ble High Court was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which dismissed the Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No. 18824/2023 vide order dated 28.07.2023. Furthermore, the Review Petition filed by the Department challenging the said order was also dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court through its order dated 09.01.2024 in SLP (C) No. 16214/2023.

7.4 The Hon'ble Bombay High Court has reaffirmed its earlier ruling in the case of M/s A R Sulphonates Pvt. Ltd., reported at (2025) 29 Centax 212 (Bom). The issue under consideration in that case was whether interest and penalty can be imposed for delayed payment of IGST levied under Section 3(7) of the Customs Tariff Act. The Hon'ble Court categorically held that interest is not chargeable and penalty is not imposable in respect of IGST demands, reiterating that there must be specific statutory authority for such imposition. By delivering this judgment, the Hon'ble Court has effectively settled the legal controversy surrounding the issue. The relevant portion of the judgment, which is self-explanatory, is reproduced below for ease of reference:

60. In Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra), this Court, after going through the provisions of Section 3 (6) of the Tariff Act and Section 3 A (4) of the Tariff Act as applicable at the relevant time, held that no specific reference was made to interest and penalties in Sections 3 (6) and 3A (4) of the Tariff Act, which are substantive provisions and, therefore, imposing interest and penalty would be without the authority of law. In the present case, the levy of IGST is under Section 3 (7) of the Tariff Act, and Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act which is applicable to the said levy is pari materia to Sections 3 (6) and 3A (4) of the Tariff Act as referred to in the case of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra). In these circumstances, in our view, the said decision is squarely applicable to the facts of the present case.

61. Further, we are unable to accept the submissions of the Respondents that the decision in the case of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra) is not applicable to the facts of the present case since it does not interpret Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act. The provisions under consideration before this Court in the case of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra) were Sections 3 (6) and 3A (4) of the Tariff Act. In Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra), this Court interpreted the provisions of Sections 3 (6) and 3 A(4) of the Tariff Act, which are pari materia to the unamended Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act, which is in consideration in the present case. On interpreting Sections 3 (6) and 3A (4) of the Tariff Act, this Court held that when no specific reference was made to interest and penalties in the said provisions, imposing interest and penalty would be without the authority of law. In these circumstances, in our view, the ratio of the decision in the case of Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra), would be squarely applicable to the facts of the present case.

62. We are also not able to accept the submission of the Respondents that the provisions of Section 3 (12) use the term "including" and the same



implies that the provisions of the Customs Act will be made applicable to the Tariff Act. As can be seen from the Judgement of this Court in Mahindra & Mahindra Limited (supra), Sections 3(6) and 3A (4) of the Tariff Act, which were considered by this Court in the said Judgement, also use the word "including". Despite the same, this Court came to the conclusion that, since there was no specific reference to interest and penalties, imposing interest and penalties would be without the authority of law.

63. *In these circumstances, in our view, the submissions of the Respondent, based on the use of the word "including" in Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act, cannot be accepted.*

67. *In our view, the amended Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act is prospective in nature and would apply only with effect from 16th August, 2024.*

69. *From the said judgement, it is abundantly clear that Section 3 (12) of the Tariff Act, as amended by Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024 dated 16th August, 2024, would apply only prospectively and would not be applicable to the case of the Petitioner at all.*

70. *In our view, for all the reasons stated hereinabove, the impugned Order, to the extent that it levies interest and penalty, is without the authority of law and is liable to be quashed and set aside.*

72. *In our view, for all the reasons stated herein above, the said Circular, to the extent that it seeks to recover interest, is bad in law.*

The Hon'ble Bombay High Court has left no room for doubt in the context of the present case and has explicitly ruled that interest is not chargeable on the levy of IGST under the Customs Tariff Act.

7.5 In view of the above, the matter stands settled in law and is no longer res integra; accordingly, interest cannot be levied in cases involving IGST payable under Section 3(7) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

8. In light of the judicial principles laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s Kamlakshi Finance Corporation Ltd., reported in 1991 (55) E.L.T. 433 (S.C.), I am duty-bound to follow the binding precedents set by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (supra) and the Hon'ble Bombay High Court in M/s A R Sulphonates Pvt. Ltd.. This is particularly so as there is no stay on the operation of the said judgments, nor have they been overruled or set aside as on date.

9. Further, I find that the order dated 28.07.2003 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. [SLP (Civil) Diary No. 18824 of 2023] reported at (2023) 9 Centax 361 (SC) is the law of the land in terms of the provisions of Article 141 of the Constitution of India for the following reasons:



- a) The SLP filed by the department was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court by giving reasons and as such the same was a speaking order. This position has been clarified vide Instruction F. No. 276/114/2015-CX.8A dated 9-2-2016 of which the relevant text is reproduced under:

"If the SLP is dismissed at the first stage by speaking a reasoned order, there is still no merger but rule of judicial discipline and declaration of law under Article 141 of the Constitution will apply. The order of Supreme Court would mean that it has declared the law and in that light the case was considered not fit for grant of leave."

- b) The above position of law has also been laid down in the case of Kunhayammed V/s State of Kerala reported at 2001 (129) ELT 11 (SC) wherein it has been held as under:

If the order refusing leave to appeal is a speaking order, i.e. gives reasons for refusing the grant of leave, then the order has two implications. Firstly, the statement of law contained in the order is a declaration of law by the Supreme Court within the meaning of Article 141 of the Constitution. Secondly, other than the declaration of law, whatever is stated in the order are the findings recorded by the Supreme Court which would bind the parties thereto and also the court, tribunal or authority in any proceedings subsequent thereto by way of judicial discipline, the Supreme Court being the Apex Court of the country.

- c) The Review Petition Diary No. 41195/2023 filed by the department against order dated 28.7.2023 was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 09.04.2024
- d) The order dated 28.07.2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is not *in limine* stands established from the very fact that the department had filed Review Petition Diary No. 41195/2023 against the said order. If the order dated 28.7.2023 was *in limine*, no review petition could have been filed against the said order in light of the Board's Instruction F. No. 276/114/2015-CX.8A dated 09.02.2016.

10. Further, I find that the department had exercised its statutory right of appeal under Section 130 E of the Customs Act, 1962, and therefore, the dismissal of the appeal whether by a speaking or non-speaking order would attract the doctrine of merger. My view is fortified by the following judicial precedents:

- a) M/s Pernod Ricard India (P) Ltd. reported at 2010 (256) ELT 161 (SC) wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held as under:

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In our opinion, once a statutory right of appeal is invoked, dismissal of appeal by the Supreme Court, whether by a speaking order or non-speaking order, the doctrine of merger does apply, unlike in the case of dismissal of special leave to appeal under Article 136 of the Constitution by a non-speaking order.

24. In the present case, the appellant preferred statutory appeal under Section 130E of the Act against order of the Tribunal dated 25th March 2003 and, therefore, the dismissal of appeal by this Court though by a non-speaking order, was in exercise of appellate jurisdiction, wherein the merits of the order impugned were subjected to judiciary scrutiny. In our opinion, in the instant case, the doctrine of merger would be attracted and the appellant is estopped from raising the issue of applicability of Rule 6 in their case.

- b) M/s Caryaire Equipments India Ltd. reported at 2005 (179) ELT 522 (All) wherein the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court has ruled as under:

22. It may be mentioned that dismissal of an SLP without giving reasons does not amount to merger of the judgment of the High Court in the order of the Supreme Court vide Kunhayammed v. State of Kerala, 2001 (129) E.L.T. 11 (S.C.) = (2000) 6 SCC 359. However, in our opinion dismissal of an appeal under Section 35L(b) by the Supreme Court would amount to a merger even if the Supreme Court does not give reasons. This is because Article 136 of the Constitution is not a regular forum of appeal at all. It is a residuary provision which entitles the Supreme Court to grant at its discretion Special Leave to Appeal from any judgment, decree, order etc. of any Court or Tribunal in India. This is an exceptional provision in the Constitution which enables the Supreme Court to interfere wherever it feels that injustice has been done but it is not an ordinary forum of appeal at all. In fact unless leave is granted by the Supreme Court under Article 136 no appeal is registered. Article 136 is a discretionary power in the Supreme Court and it does not confer a right of appeal upon a party but merely vests discretion in the Supreme Court to interfere in exceptional cases vide State of Bombay v. Rusy Mistry and Another, AIR 1960 SC 391, Municipal Board v. Mahendra, AIR 1982 SC 1293 etc.

23. Article 136 does not confer a right to appeal at all. It only confers a right to apply for a Special Leave to Appeal vide Bharat Bank v. Its Employees, AIR 1950 SC 88. It is for this reason that a dismissal of an SLP does not amount to merger of the order of the High Court or the Tribunal with the order of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court can reject an SLP without even going into the merits of the case e.g. if it believes that the matter is not so serious as to require consideration by the Supreme Court or for any other reasons.

24. On the other hand Section 35L provides a regular forum of appeal. Hence if an appeal under Section 35L is dismissed by the Supreme Court,



whether by giving reasons or without giving reasons in either case. The doctrine of merger will apply and the judgment of the High Court or the Tribunal will merge into the judgment of the Supreme Court. Hence in our opinion the judgment of the Supreme Court dismissing the appeal against the order of the CEGAT is binding on us.

11. In view of the above, I find that interest cannot be levied on the IGST payable under Section 3 (7) of the Customs Tariff Act, in the absence of any express statutory provision authorizing such a charge. Consequently, the interest recovered in the present case is without the authority of law and therefore cannot be retained by the department; it is liable to be refunded to the appellants. Accordingly, the impugned order rejecting the refund application is not legally sustainable and is hereby set aside.

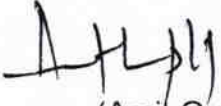
12. Accordingly, I set aside the impugned order and allow the appeal filed by the Appellant with consequential relief, if any, in accordance with the law.



सत्यापित/ATTESTED
अधीक्षक/SUPERINTENDENT
सीमा शुल्क (अपील), अहमदाबाद
CUSTOMS (APPEALS), AHM.

F. No. S/49-114/CUS/AHD/JUN/2025-26

2396


(Amit Gupta)
Commissioner (Appeals),
Customs, Ahmedabad

Date: 10.07.2025

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