

IN THE INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL "A" BENCH, MUMBAI

श्री बी. आर. बास्करन, लेखा सदस्य, एवं श्री अमरजीत सिंह, न्यायिक सदस्य, के समक्ष
BEFORE SHRI B.R.BASKARAN, AM AND SHRI AMARJIT SINGH, JM

आयकर अपील सं/ I.T.A. No.5448/Mum/2010 & 3555/Mum/2011
(निर्धारण वर्ष / Assessment Year: 2003-04 & 2004-05)

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| Income Tax Officer 2(1)(1) Room No. 575, 5 th Floor, Aayakar Bhavan, M.K.Marg, Mumbai - 400020 | बनाम/ Vs. | M/s. Abhi-Man Steel Ltd. A1/A2, Apeksha Enclave, Mahavir Nagar, Kandiwali(W), Mumbai - 400067 |
| स्थायी लेखा सं./जीआइआर सं./PAN/GIR No. : AACCA0212F | | |

आयकर अपील सं/ I.T.A. No. 3556/Mum/2011
(निर्धारण वर्ष / Assessment Year: 2004-05)

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| Income Tax Officer 2(1)(1) Room No. 575, 5 th Floor, Aayakar Bhavan, M.K.Marg, Mumbai - 400020 | बनाम/ Vs. | M/s. Abhiman System & Software Steel Ltd. 24/B, Raja Bahadur Mansion, Office No.112/C, Hamam Street, Fort Mumbai - 400001 |
| स्थायी लेखा सं./जीआइआर सं./PAN/GIR No. : AACCA7701M | | |
| (अपीलार्थी /Appellant) | .. | (प्रत्यर्थी / Respondent) |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Assessee by: | None |
| Department by: | Shri. Somanath S. Ukkali |

सुनवाई की तारीख / Date of Hearing: 11.01.2016
घोषणा की तारीख /Date of Pronouncement: 18.05.2016

आदेश / ORDER

PER AMARJIT SINGH, JM:

These appeals filed by the Revenue against the order of learned Commissioner of Income Tax (A) 4, Mumbai dated 02.02.2011 and 13.04.2010 for the assessment year 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

2. At the time of hearing, it was noticed that the tax effect involved in this appeal on the disputed issues is less than Rs.10 lakhs. For the sake of convenience, we tabulate below the relevant details:-

| S.No. | Name of assessee | Amount in dispute(for quantum appeal) in Rs. | Penalty deleted or reduced by Ld CIT(A) In Rs. |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Abhiman Steel Ltd. (A.Y.2003-04) | 43,53,459/- | |
| 2 | Abhiman Steel Ltd. (A.Y.2004-05) | 24,40,395/- | |
| 3 | Abhiman System & Software Ltd. (A.Y.2004-05) | 16,28,730/- | |

3. We notice that the revenue is contesting the decision of Ld CIT(A) in granting relief to the extent stated above and hence the tax effect involved on the above said disputed amounts works out to less than Rs.10 lakhs. Recently the CBDT has issued a circular No.21/2015 dated 10.12.2015 prescribing new monetary limits for preferring appeals against the orders passed by Ld CIT(A) before the Tribunal. The relevant portion of the circular cited above reads as under:

"F No 279/Misc. 142/2007-ITJ (Pt)
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board Direct Taxes

Circular No. 21/2015

New Delhi the 10th December, 2015

Sub :Revision of monetary limits for filing of appeals by the Department before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and High Courts and SLP before Supreme Court - measures for reducing litigation – Reg

Reference is invited to Board's instruction No 5/2014 dated 10.07.2014 wherein monetary limits and other conditions for filing departmental appeals (in Income-tax matters) before Appellate Tribunal and High Courts and SLP before the Supreme Court were specified.

2. In supersession of the above instruction, it has been decided by the Board that departmental appeals may be filed on merits before Appellate Tribunal and High Courts and SLP before the Supreme Court keeping in view the monetary limits and conditions specified below.

3. Henceforth, appeals/ SLPs shall not be filed in cases where the tax effect does not exceed the monetary limits given hereunder:

| S No | Appeals in Income-tax matters | Monetary Limit (in Rs) |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Before Appellate Tribunal | 10,00,000/- |
| 2 | Before High Court | 20,00,000/- |
| 3 | Before Supreme Court | 25,00,000/- |

It is clarified that an appeal should not be filed merely because the tax effect in a case exceeds the monetary limits prescribed above. Filing of appeal in such cases is to be decided on merits of the case.

4. For this purpose, "tax effect" means the difference between the tax on the total income assessed and the tax that would have been chargeable had such total income been reduced by the amount of income in respect of the issues against which appeal is intended to be filed (hereinafter referred to as "disputed issues"). However the tax will not include any interest thereon, except where chargeability of interest itself is in dispute. In case the chargeability of interest is the issue under dispute, the amount of interest shall be the tax effect. In cases where returned loss is reduced or assessed as income, the tax effect would include notional tax on disputed additions. **In case of penalty orders, the tax effect will mean quantum of penalty deleted or reduced in the order to be appealed against.**

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10. **This instruction will apply retrospectively to pending appeals and appeals to be filed henceforth in High Courts/ Tribunals. Pending appeals below the specified tax limits in para 3 above may be withdrawn/ not pressed.** Appeals before the Supreme Court will be governed by the instructions on this subject, operative at the time when such appeal was filed.”

11.”

It can be noticed that the CBDT has further clarified that this new circular/instruction shall apply retrospectively, i.e., even to the pending appeals. It is also stated that the quantum of penalty deleted or reduced shall be considered for determining the monetary limits.

4. It is well settled proposition that the circulars issued by the CBDT are binding on the Income Tax Authorities. For this proposition, one may gainfully refer to the decisions rendered by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in the case of Azadi Bachao Andolan (2003)(177 Taxation 775) and Pradip J Mehta Vs. CIT (2008)(300 ITR 231). Hence, the latest circular issued by the CBDT (referred supra) is binding on the income tax authorities. Accordingly, we find merit in the submissions of Ld A.R that this appeal of the revenue is not maintainable, since tax effect involved in this appeal is less than

Rs.10 lakhs. Accordingly, we dismiss all the appeals filed by the revenue.

5. Accordingly, all the appeals of the Revenue are dismissed.

Order pronounced in the open court on 18th May, 2016

Sd/-

Sd/-

(B.R.BASKARAN)

(AMARJIT SINGH)

लेखा सदस्य / ACCOUNTANT MEMBER न्यायिक सदस्य/JUDICIAL MEMBER

मुंबई Mumbai; दिनांक Dated : 18th May, 2016

MP

आदेश की प्रतिलिपि अग्रेषित/Copy of the Order forwarded to :

1. अपीलार्थी / The Appellant
2. प्रत्यर्थी / The Respondent.
3. आयकर आयुक्त(अपील) / The CIT(A)-
4. आयकर आयुक्त / CIT
5. विभागीय प्रतिनिधि, आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण, मुंबई / DR, ITAT, Mumbai
6. गार्ड फाईल / Guard file.

आदेशानुसार/ BY ORDER,

सत्यापित प्रति //True Copy//

उप/सहायक पंजीकार (Dy./Asstt. Registrar)

आयकर अपीलीय अधिकरण, मुंबई / ITAT, Mumbai