



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF C. G. S. T.,  
AHMEDABAD – SOUTH.

प्रधान आयुक्त का कार्यालय, के. व. से. क., अहमदाबाद दक्षिण  
G. S. T. BHAVAN, AMBAWADI, AHMEDABAD – 380 015  
व. से. क. भवन, आम्बावाड़ी, अहमदाबाद – ३८० ०१५

F.No.: STC/04-11/0&A/Eastern/21-22  
DIN: 20221171MN0000111F2C

आदेश की तारीख: Date of Order : 18.11.2022  
जारी करने की तारीख: Date of Issue : 18.11.2022

द्वारा पारित / Passed by: **Shri Marut Tripathi, JOINT COMMISSIONER**

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मूल आदेश सं./Order-In-Original No.35/CGST/Ahmd-South/JC/MT/22-23

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यह प्रति उस व्यक्ति (यों) को, जिसके (जिनके) लिए यह आदेश जारी किया गया है, उसके (उनके) व्यक्तिगत उपयोग के लिए निःशुल्क प्रदान की जाती है।

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यदि कोई व्यक्ति इस आदेश से स्वयं को असंतुष्ट अनुभव करता है, तो वह इस आदेश के विरुद्ध आयुक्त (अपील), केन्द्रीय जीएसटी, केन्द्रीय जीएसटी भवन, आम्बावाड़ी, अहमदाबाद-15 को प्रारूप इ.ए.-1 में अपील कर सकता है। उक्त अपील पक्षकार पर आदेश तामील होने अथवा अथवा उसे डाक द्वारा प्राप्त करने की तारीख से दो माह के भीतर दाखिल की जानी चाहिए। इसपर रुपए 2.00/- केवल का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट लगा होना चाहिए।

Any person deeming himself aggrieved by this Order may appeal against this order in Form E.A.1 to Commissioner (Appeals), Central GST, Central GST Bhavan, Near Government Polytechnic, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad -15 within sixty days from date of its communication. The appeal should bear a court fee stamp of Rs.2.00/- only.

उक्त अपील दो प्रतियों में प्रारूप सं. इ.ए.-1/S.T.-4 में दाखिल की जानी चाहिए। उसपर केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क (अपील) नियमावली, 2001 के नियम 3 के उपबंधों के अनुसार अपीलकर्ताओं द्वारा हस्ताक्षर किए जाने चाहिए। इसके साथ निम्नलिखित को संलग्न किया जाए:

The Appeal should be filed in form No. E.A.-1/S.T.-4 in duplicate. It should be filed by the appellants in accordance with provisions of Rule 3 of the Central Excise (Appeals) Rules, 2001. It shall be accompanied with the following:

उक्त अपील की प्रति।

Copy of the aforesaid appeal.

निर्णय की दो प्रतियाँ (उसमें से एक उस आदेश की प्रमाणित प्रतिलिपि होनी चाहिए जिसके विरुद्ध अपील की गई है) अथवा उक्त आदेश की अन्य प्रति जिसपर रु 2.00/- का न्यायालय शुल्क टिकट अवश्य लगा होना चाहिए।

Copies of the Decision (one of which at least shall be certified copy of the order appealed against) or copy of the said Order bearing a court fee stamp of Rs. 2.00/-.

इस आदेश के विरुद्ध आयुक्त (अपील) में शुल्क के 7.5% जहां शुल्क एवं जुर्माना का विवाद है अथवा जुर्माना जहां शिर्फ जुर्माना के बारे में विवाद है उसका भुक्तान करके अपील की जा सकती है।

An appeal against this order shall lie before the Commissioner (Appeal) on payment of 7.5% of the duty demanded where duty or duty and penalty are in dispute, or penalty, where penalty alone is in dispute."

संदर्भ/Reference :कारण बताओ सूचना फा.सं. F.No.: STC/04-11/0&A/Eastern/21-22,DATED 21.04.2021 issued to, M/s Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427

## 1. BRIEF FACTS OF THE CASE

1.1 M/s Eastern Traylor Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427, (hereinafter referred to as the 'Service Provider' for the sake of brevity) is registered under Service Tax having Registration No.- AGJPG2004KST001.

1.2 As per the information received from the Income Tax Department, M/s Eastern Traylor, Ahmedabad had earned substantial service income, however, they have not paid service tax on actual sale of services thereon.

1.3 Therefore, the clarification along with the documents related to service income for the period 2015-16 to June-2017 were called for from the service provider for assessment purpose, vide letters dated 27.01.2020 and 28.09.2020 and summon dated 01.04.2021. However, the said Service Provider failed to submit the required details/documents or offer any explanation/clarification regarding income earned by them.

1.4 As per the details shared by Income Tax Department for the Financial Year 2015-16 and 2016-17, the said service provider has earned the income as under.

Sr. No.	Period (Fin. Year)	Income earned in Rs.	Business description (Service Sector)
1	2015-16	33353844/-	Service Sector [Transporters]
2	2016-17	37988874/-	

1.5 However, they have been filed the return for the period October-2015 to March-2016 on 22.04.2016.

## 2. LEGAL PROVISION

2.1 According to Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 read with Rule 7(1) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994, every person liable to pay Service Tax shall himself assess the tax due on the services provided by him and thereafter furnish a return to the jurisdictional Superintendent of Service Tax by disclosing wholly & truly all materials facts in ST-3 returns:

2.2 As per provision of Section 68 of Finance Act, 1994 read with Rule 6 of Service Tax Rule 1994 as amended, every person providing taxable service to any person is liable to pay Service Tax at the rate prescribed in Section 66B to Central Government by the 5th of the month/ quarter immediately following the calendar month/ quarter in which the taxable service is deemed to be provided (except for the month of March which is required to be paid on 31st March).

## 3. OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Since the said Service Provider had failed to submit the required details of services provided during the Financial Year 2015-16 to June-2017 till date, the service tax liability of the Service Provider was required to be ascertained on the basis of

income mentioned in the ITR returns and Form 26-AS filed by the said Service Provider with the Income Tax Department. The figures/data provided by the Income Tax Department was considered as the total taxable value in order to ascertain the service tax liability under Section 67A of the Finance Act, 1994 as the said Service Provider failed to determine correct taxable value.

**3.2** The Service tax payable was calculated on the basis of value of "sales of services under Sales/Gross Receipts from Services (Value from ITR)" as provided by the Income Tax department for the Financial Year 2015-16 and 2016-17. By considering the said amount as taxable income, and as the said Service Provider failed to submit the required details as per above referred letter, the service tax liability was calculated as under:-

Table-A

F.Y	Taxable Value as per ITR	Value declared in ST-3	TOTAL VALUE for TDS (including 194C, 194la, 194lb, 194J, 194H)	HIGHER VALUE (VALUE DIFFERENCE in ITR & STR) OR (VALUE DIFFERENCE in TDS & STR)	Service Tax (at 14.5% for 2015-16 and 15% for 2016-17) payable
2015-16	3335384 4	225000	14495317	33128844	4803682
2016-17	3798887 4	0	18094265	37988874	5698331
				Total	10502013

**3.3** It appears that the said Service Provider had neither filed a correct Service Tax ST-3 return for the services provided by them for the period of F.Y. 2015-16 and 2016-17, nor responded to correspondence made with them and concealed the value from the department, declared to the income tax department. Therefore, it appears that the said Service Provider had not paid correct service tax by way of willful suppression of facts to the department in contravention of provisions of the Finance Act, 1994 relating to levy and collection of service tax and the Rules made there under, with intent to evade payment of service tax. Therefore, the service tax amounting to Rs. **1,05,02,013/-** is recoverable from them by invoking extended period of five years under first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 73 of Finance Act, 1994 along with interest at the prescribed rate under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 and also rendered himself liable for penal action under Section 77 and 78 of Finance Act, 1994.

**3.4** With respect to issuance of unquantified demand at the time of issuance of SCN, Master Circular No. 1053/02/2017-CX dated 10.03.2017 issued by the CBEC, New Delhi clarifies that:

*2.8 Quantification of duty demanded: It is desirable that the demand is quantified in the SCN, however if due to some genuine grounds it is not possible to quantify*

*the short levy at the time of issue of SCN, the SCN would not be considered as invalid. It would still be desirable that the principles and manner of computing the amounts due from the noticee are clearly laid down in this part of the SCN. In the case of Gwalior Rayon Mfg. (Wvg.) Co. Vs.UOI, 1982 (010) ELT 0844 (MP), the Madhya Pradesh High Court at Jabalpur affirms the same position that merely because necessary particulars have not been stated in the show cause notice, it could not be a valid ground for quashing the notice, because it is open to the petitioner to seek further particulars, if any, that may be necessary for it to show cause if the same is deficient."*

**3.5** From the data received from CBDT, it appeared that the "Total Amount Paid/Credited Under Section 194C, 194H, 194I, 194J OR Sales/Gross Receipts From Services (From ITR)" for the Financial year 2017-18 (upto June-2017) has not been disclosed thereof by the Income Tax Department, nor the reason for the non disclosure was made known to this department. Further, the service provider had also failed to provide the required information even after the issuance of letters/summon from the Department. Therefore, the assessable value for the year 2017-18 (upto June-2017) was not ascertainable at the time of issuance of this Show Cause Notice. Consequently, if any other amount is disclosed by the Income Tax Department or any other sources/agencies, against the said service provider, action will be initiated against the said service provider under the proviso to Section 73(1) of the Finance Act 1994 read with para 2.8 of the Master Circular No. 1053/02/2017-CX dated 10.03.2017, in as much as the Service Tax liability arising in future, for the period 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto June-2017) not covered under this Show Cause Notice, will be recoverable from the service provider accordingly.

#### **4. PENAL ACTION**

**4.1** It further appeared that on account of all the above narrated acts of commission and omissions on the part of the said service provider, they have rendered themselves liable to penalty under the following proviso of the Finance Act, 1994 and Rules framed there under:-

- Section 70 and Section 77 of the Finance Act, 1994 as amended in as much as they failed to correctly self assess the tax due on the services provided and had not filed/not filed correct ST-3 return and contravened the provisions of Service Tax laws and did not comply to the letter issued by the Department and did not provide the required information/documents.
- Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994, in as much as they had suppressed the material facts from the department about service provided and value realized by them with intent to evade payment of service tax.

**4.2** Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 stipulates that every person liable to pay the Service Tax shall himself assess the tax due. The Government has introduced self-assessment system under a trust based regime which casts the onus of proper assessment and discharging of the Service Tax on the Service Provider. The definition

of "assessment" available in Rule 2(b) of Service Tax Rules, 1994 is reproduced as under:-

*"Assessment" includes self assessment of service tax by the assessee, re-assessment, provisional assessment, best judgment assessment and any order of assessment in which the tax assessed is nil; determination of the interest on the tax assessed or re-assessed."*

**4.3** In view of foregoing paras, all the above acts of suppression of facts, misstatement and contravention, omissions and commissions on the part of said service provider were wilful in order to avoid the service tax payment of Rs. **1,05,02,013/-** for the period 2015-16 and 2016-17 and accordingly were required to be demanded and recovered with late fee for non filing of Service Tax returns for the above period under the proviso to Section 73(1) of the Finance Act, 1994 by invoking extended period of five years for the reasons stated herein foregoing paras. In view of the facts discussed in foregoing paras and material evidence available on record, it appeared that the said service provider had contravened the provisions of Section 66B of the Finance Act, 1994, Section 68 of the Finance Act, 1994 as amended read with Rule 6 of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 and Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 read with Rule 7 of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 in as much as they failed to determine; collect and pay Service Tax amounting to Rs. **1,05,02,013/-** (including EC, SHEC, SBC & KKC) for the period 2015-16 and 2016-17 as detailed above and they had failed to declare value of taxable service to the department services as detailed above.

**5.** Therefore, M/S Eastern Trailer Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, were called upon to show cause to the Joint Commissioner, Central GST, Ahmedabad South having his office situated at 7th Floor, GST Bhavan, Revenue Road, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad-380015 as to why:-

- I. Service Tax of **Rs. 10502013/-** which was not paid for the F.Y.2015-16 and 2016-17 as per Table-A in para-8 above, should not be demanded and recovered from them under proviso to Sub-section (1) of Section 73 of Finance Act,1994;
- II. Interest at the prescribed rate should not be demanded and recovered from them for the period of delay of payment of service tax mentioned at above under Section 75 of the Finance Act,1994;
- III. Prescribed late fee, should not be recovered from them for each S.T.-3 return filed late, for the relevant period, under Rule 7C of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 read with Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 and
- IV. Penalty should not be imposed under Section 77 of the Finance Act,1994.
- V. Penalty should not be imposed upon them under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994, for non-payment of Service Tax by willfully suppressing the facts from the department with intent to evade the payment of Service Tax as explained herein above.

## **6. DEFENCE REPLY**

**6.1** The said service provider i.e. M/s. Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad vide their letter dated 07.10.2022 submitted freight register, Form 26AS, Income Tax Return and Audit Report for F.Y. 2015-16, 2016-17. However, the assessee has failed to produce

consignment note/ lorry receipt (Sales Invoices) for the service provided by them. Vide the above said letter they submitted that the service provided by them was exempted by virtue of entry no. 22 of Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012. They further informed that they were engaged in providing service of their vehicle i.e., Truck, Trailer to other transporters on rent basis for the purpose of transportation of goods. The assessee also provided CA certificate dated 15.11.2022 in respect of service provided by them.

## 7. RECORD OF PERSONAL HEARING

7.1 Shri Basant Sharma, Tax Practitioner on behalf of said service provider appeared for personal hearing on 07.10.2022 and stated that tax payer is a transporter and requested to drop the SCN proceedings.

## 8. DISCUSSIONS & FINDINGS

8.1 I have carefully gone through the records of the case, submission made by the noticee in reply to the show cause notice and also during the course of personal hearing, Audited Balance Sheet, ITR, Form 26AS, copies of freight ledger/accounts for the year 2015-16 to 2016-17.

8.2 Briefly stated the facts of the case are that as per the information received from the Income Tax Department, the said service provider has earned substantial service income. However, he did not pay service tax on actual sale of services thereon the details of which are shown as under:

Sr. No.	Period (Fin. Year)	Income earned in Rs.	Business description (Service Sector)
1	2015-16	33353844/-	Service Sector [Transporters]
2	2016-17	37988874/-	

8.3 On the basis of above details the department has worked out the service tax liability as under:

F.Y	Taxable Value as per ITR	Value declared in ST-3	TOTAL VALUE for TDS (including 194C, 194la, 194lb, 194J, 194H)	HIGHER VALUE (VALUE DIFFERENCE in ITR & STR) OR (VALUE DIFFERENCE in TDS & STR)	Service Tax (at 14.5% for 2015-16 and 15% for 2016-17) payable
2015-16	33353844	22500 0	14495317	33128844	4803682
2016-17	37988874	0	18094265	37988874	5698331
				Total	10502013

8.4 In the present case, Show Cause Notice has been issued to the assessee demanding Service Tax of Rs. 1,05,02,013/- for the financial year 2015-16 to 2016-17 on the basis of data received from Income Tax authorities. The Show Cause Notice

alleged non-payment of Service Tax, charging of interest in terms of Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 and penalty under Section 76, 77 and 78 of the Finance Act, 1994.

**8.5** The assessee has informed that they are in the business of providing "Goods transport Agency Service" and provided their vehicles i.e., Trucks/Trailers to other transporters for the purpose of transportation of goods for which they are not liable to collect service tax as per entry no 22 of Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012.

**8.6** However, M/s. Eastern Trailer Ahmedabad failed to provide supporting invoices i.e. consignment note/ lorry receipt (Sales Invoices) for the service provided by them. M/s. Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad also failed to provide any agreement made with the transporters to whom, truck, trailer were provided on rent for the purpose of transportation of goods. They also failed to provide party wise ledger for the service provided by them. In absence of such evidences, benefits of exemption Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 cannot be extended to them.

**8.7** Now I would like to go through the legal aspects of the taxability of GTA services. Rule 2(d)(B)(V) of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 provided that;

(d) "person liable for paying service tax", -

(i) (B) in relation to service provided or agreed to be provided by a goods transport agency in respect of transportation of goods by road,

where the person liable to pay freight is,—

(I) any factory registered under or governed by the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948);

(II) any society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (21 of 1860) or under any other law for the time being in force in any part of India;

(III) any co-operative society established by or under any law;

(IV) any dealer of excisable goods, who is registered under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944) or the rules made there under;

(V) any body corporate established, by or under any law; or

(VI) any partnership firm whether registered or not under any law including association of persons; any person who pays or is liable to pay freight either himself or through his agent for the transportation of such goods by road in a goods carriage: Provided that when such person is located in a non-taxable territory, the provider of such service shall be liable to pay service tax.

**8.8** Para 22 of Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 as amended provided that the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts the following taxable services from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon under section 66B of the said Act, namely:-

"22. Services by way of giving on hire –

(a) to a state transport undertaking, a motor vehicle meant to carry more than twelve passengers;

or

(b) to a goods transport agency, a means of transportation of goods;"

In the instant case, the assessee has provided his Trucks/Trailers to other transporters for the purpose of transportation of goods. But they failed to produce

agreement made with the GTA Service provider. They failed to provide party-wise ledgers for the service provided by them and also failed to provide sales invoices in respect of renting of their vehicles i.e., Trucks/Trailers. Therefore, in absence of such evidences the benefit of the exemption notification no. 25/2012 dated 20.06.2012 cannot be extended without fulfillment of legal requirements, without undertaking necessary verification, without appreciation of requirements and fulfillment of legal provisions.

**8.9** As per provisions contained in Para 22 of Exemption Notification No. 25/2012-ST dated 20.06.2012 as amended, Service Tax on Services by way of giving on hire to a goods transport agency, a means of transportation of goods are exempted from payment of service tax. However, it is also pertinent to note that no undertaking/agreement have been submitted by the service provider in respect of nature of service rendered, hence in absence of any such undertaking or any proof it cannot be ascertained that M/s. Eastern Traylor Ahmedabad were providing their vehicle i.e. Truck, Trailer to other transporter on rent basis.

**8.10** M/s. Eastern Trailer Ahmedabad failed to submit agreement, party-wise ledgers and copies of sales invoices for renting of vehicles to other transporters for the purpose of transportation of goods for F.Y. 2015-16 and F. Y. 2016-17 to this office therefore Hence, I deny the exemption for the said service provided by service provider to their recipients. Thus, as per the details produced by service provider, the value of such service receivers for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 comes to Rs. 3,33,53,844/-, and 3,79,88,874/- respectively I hold that entire amount of **Rs.7,13,42,718/-** is liable for payment of service tax without any benefit of either abatement of exemption to the service provider.

**8.11** It is noticed that the assessee had not provided any sales ledger/register for the period of 2015-16 and 2016-17 to the investigating authority hence demand of service tax was calculated by the Show Cause Notice issuing authority at rate of 14.5% for the F.Y. 2015 and at the rate of 15% for the F.Y. 2016-17 which comes to **Rs.1,05,02,013/-**. However, during the adjudication, the assessee has provided freight receipt register for the F.Y. 2015-16 and F.Y. 2016-17. Liability of Service Tax has been re-calculated as per the freight receipt register provided by the assessee which comes to **Rs. 1,03,41,434/-** (Rs.1,60,579/- less than the demand made in Show Cause Notice). The service tax liability is worked out as under



Year	Period as per lorry receipt	Value of Service	Rate of service tax %	Tax Liability
2015-16	01.04.15 to 31.05.15	3909165	12.36%	483172.79
	01.06.15 to 14.11.15	16069556	14%	2249737.84
	15.11.15 to 31.03.16	13375123	14.50%	1939392.84
	<b>Total Amount in Rs.</b>	<b>33353844</b>		<b>4672303</b>
2016-17	01.04.16 to 31.05.16	5840014	14.50%	846802.03
	01.06.16 to 31.03.17	32148860	15%	4822329
	<b>Total Amount in Rs.</b>	<b>37988874</b>		<b>5669131</b>
<b>Sub- total (Amount in Rs. )</b>		<b>7,13,42,718</b>		<b>1,03,41,434</b>

8.12 It is on record that from the data received from CBDT, it appears that the "Total Amount Paid/Credited Under Section 194C, 194H, 194I, 194J OR Sales/Gross Receipts From Services (From ITR)" for the Financial year 2017-18 (upto June-2017) has not been disclosed thereof by the Income Tax Department, nor the reason for the non disclosure was made known to this department. Further, the service provider has also failed to provide the required information even after the issuance of letters/summon from the department. Therefore, the assessable value for the year 2017-18 (upto June-2017) is not ascertainable at the time of issuance of this Show Cause Notice. Consequently, if any other amount is disclosed by the Income Tax Department or any other sources/agencies, against the said service provider, action will be initiated against the said service provider under the proviso to Section 73(1) of the Finance Act 1994 read with para 2.8 of the Master Circular No. 1053/02/2017-CX dated 10.03.2017, in as much as the Service Tax liability arising in future, for the period 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 (upto June-2017) not covered under this Show Cause Notice, will be recoverable from the service provider accordingly.

8.13 I observe that the said Service Provider had neither filed a correct Service Tax ST-3 return for the services provided by them for the period of F.Y. 2015-16 and 2016-17, nor responded to correspondence made with them and concealed the value from the department, declared to the income tax department. Therefore, it is observed that the said Service Provider had not paid correct service tax by way of wilful suppression of facts to the department in contravention of provisions of the Finance Act, 1994 relating to levy and collection of service tax and the Rules made there under, with intent to evade payment of service tax. Therefore, the service tax amounting to Rs. 1,03,41,434/-is recoverable from them by invoking extended period of five years under first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 73 of Finance Act, 1994 along with interest at the prescribed rate under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994 and also rendered himself liable for penal action under Section 77 and 78 of Finance Act, 1994.

**8.14** I observe that all the above acts of suppression of facts, misstatement and contravention, omissions and commissions are on the part of said service provider that they have willfully suppressed the facts, nature and value of service provided by them by not assessing and paying due Service Tax liability, therefore, the above said amounts of Service Tax of Rs. 1,03,41,434/- (Non-payment of Service Tax for the period 2015-16 and 2016-17 on Income from taxable service provided by them), and Late fee (Non filing of Service Tax returns) for the above period is required to be demanded and recovered from them under the proviso to Section 73(1) of the Finance Act, 1994 by invoking extended period of five years for the reasons stated herein foregoing paras. In view of the facts discussed in foregoing paras and material evidence available on record, it appears that the said service provider have contravened the provisions of Section 66B of the Finance Act, 1994, Section 68 of the Finance Act, 1994 as amended read with Rule 6 of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 and Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 read with Rule 7 of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 in as much as that they failed to determine; collect and pay Service Tax amounting to Rs. 8827447/- (including EC, SHEC, SBC & KKC) for the period 2015-16 and 2016-17 as detailed above and they have failed to declare value of taxable service to the department and thus suppressed the amount of charges received by them for providing taxable services as detailed above.

**8.15** In view of the above, the assessee is liable to pay service tax of Rs. 1,03,41,434/- for the period of 2015-16 and 2016-17. I observe that the assessee has not filed ST-3 Returns for the period of 2015-16 and 2016-17.

## **9. LATE FEE**

Coming to the matter of late fee I have noted that the said service provider have not filed ST-3 Returns for the period of 2015-16 and 2016-17. Hence they are liable to pay prescribed late fee, for each ST-3 return filed late, for the relevant period, whenever they file ST-3 returns, under Rule 7C of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 read with Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994.

## **10. PENAL ACTION**

**10.1** As regard penal action under Section 77 of the Finance Act, 1994, there is no submission on the part of service provider as against the proposal made in the SCN issued. As per the facts available on record, I have noted that clarification along with documents related to service income for the period from 2015-16 to June-2017 were called for from the Service Provider for the purpose of verification vide letter dated 27.01.2020 and 28.09.2020 followed by summon dated 01.04.2021. However, the said Service Provider failed to submit the required details/documents or offer any explanation/clarification with respect to the income earned by them and, accordingly, violated the provision of the Section 77(c) of the said act. Hence, they are liable to penalty which may extend to ten thousand rupees or two hundred rupees for every day

during which such failure continues, whichever is higher, starting with the first day after the due date, till the date of actual compliance. As already pointed out above, the noticee initially was asked to submit the details vide letter dated 27.01.2020 but it is not on record as to by which date the same becomes due. However, thereafter vide letter dated 28.09.2020 the department has issued reminder followed by summons dated 01.04.2021. Therefore, inference about the due date of submission of details/documents can be drawn as date preceded to the date of issuance of reminder dated 28.09.2020. In the instant matter, I have noted that till the date of issuance of SCN on 21.04.2021, the noticee has failed to submit such details/documents. Thus, there was the delay of 206 days in submitting the details as called for and, accordingly, penalty @ Rs 200/day liable to be paid by service provider comes to Rs.41,200/-.

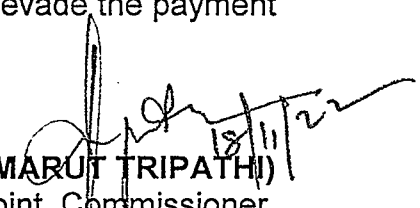
**10.2** As regard penal action under Section 78 of the said act there is no submission on the part of service provider. However, on going through the details of records submitted by the service provider I have noted that the noticee had provided their vehicles i.e., Trucks/Trailers on rent to other transporters on rent for the purpose of transportation of goods but failed to produce agreement made with the GTA Service provider, sales invoices and party-wise ledgers in respect of the rendered services. Therefore, extension of exemption from payment of service tax cannot be granted to the assessee without examination of the said documents. The said act on their part was intentional which involves suppression of fact and, thereby, they are liable to penalty under Section 78 of the finance act.

**11.** In above view, I pass the following order.

#### ORDER

- i)** I order to recover Service Tax amounting to **Rs. 1,03,41,434/- (Rupees One Crore, Three Lakh, Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four only)** which was not paid for the F.Y.2015-16, 2016-17 from M/s Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427 under proviso to Sub-section (1) of Section 73 of Finance Act, 1994;
- ii)** I order to recover interest at the prescribed rate from M/s Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427 for the period of delay of payment of service tax mentioned above under Section 75 of the Finance Act, 1994.
- iii)** I Impose a penalty of Rs. 41,200/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) on M/s Revathi Jayaraj, No. 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Kamakshi House, N.H. No. 8, Kheda Bareja, bareja, Ahmedabad- 382425 under Section 77 of the Finance Act, 1994.

- iv) I order to recover late fee of Rs.80,000/- (Rs.20,000/- for each ST-3 Return for four returns for the period from April-2015 to September-2015, October-2015 to March-2016, April-2016 to September-2016 and October-2016 to March-2017) for ST-3 return filed late for the relevant period under Rule 7C of the Service Tax Rules, 1994 read with Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1994 in terms of discussions held at Para 9 of the order.
- v) I impose a penalty of Rs. 1,03,41,434/- (Rupees One Crore, Three Lakh, Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Four only) on M/s Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad, Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar, Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427 under Section 78 of the Finance Act, 1994 for non payment of service tax by wilful suppressing the facts from the department with intent to evade the payment of service tax explained herein above.

  
(MARUT TRIPATHI)  
Joint Commissioner,  
CGST & Excise, Ahmedabad South,  
Ahmedabad.

~~BY SPEED POST~~  
BY SPEED POST AD/HAND

F.No.: STC/04-11/0&A/Eastern/21-22

DIN: 20221171MN0000111F2C

Date :18.11.2022

To,  
M/s Eastern Trailor Ahmedabad,  
Plot No. 107, Transport Nagar,  
Aslali, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382427

Copy to:

- 1) The Principal Commissioner, CGST, Ahmedabad South.
- 2) The Deputy Commissioner, Central GST, Div-IV, Ahmedabad South.
- 3) The Asstt. Commissioner, Central Tax, TAR Section, HQ, Ahmedabad South
- 4) The Superintendent, Range-I, CGST, Div-IV, Ahmedabad South.
- 5) The Superintendent, Central Tax, Systems HQ, Ahmedabad South for uploading on the website.
- 6) Guard file.