Horld Marin Hiregange & Associates Chartered Accountants

Appool + COD + ODA 1,500 By hand-

Date: 05.09.2018

The Assistant Registrar,

Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal,

1st Floor, HMWSSB Building, Rear Portion, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500 004

Dear Sir,

Sub: Filing of Appeal by M/s. Paramount Builders against the Order of the Commissioner (Appeals-II), Hyderabad in Order-In-Appeal No. HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018

We are authorized to file Appeal in the above referred subject and we are herewith enclosing the appeal memorandum of M/s. Paramount Builders against the HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018 passed by Commissioner (Appeals-II), 7th Floor, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad - 500004 in Form S.T-5 containing in quadruplicate along with the authorization letter along with Condonation of Delay.

Please find herewith enclosed Demand Draft No. 254302 04.09.2018 for Rs.1,500/- drawn on Karnataka Bank Ltd. towards Appeal Filing Fee and Condonation of Delay.

Kindly post the matter for hearing at the earliest.

Chartered

Thanking You, Yours truly,

For Hiregange & Associates Chartered Accountant As

Venkata Prasad F

Head Office Bengaluru

Partner

1010, 2nd Floor, (Above Corporation Bank), 26th Main, 4th "T" Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041. Tele: +91 080 4121 703, Telefax: 080 2653 6404 / 05 Email ID: rajesh@hiregange.com

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Visakhapatnam: Flat No. 101, D.No. 9-19-18 Sai Sree Kesay Vihar, Behind Gothi Sons Show Room CBM Compound, Visakhapatnam - 530 003. Tele: +91 0891-2509235, Email ID: anil@hiregange.com NCR - Gurgoan: # 509, Vipul Trade Centre Sector 48, Sohna Road, Gurgaon Harayana - 122 009. Tele: +91 85109 50400 Email ID: ashish@hiregange.com

Mumbai: Flat No. 409, Filix, Opp. Asian Paints LBS Marg, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400 078. Tele: +91 022 2595 5544, 022 2595 5533 Email ID: vasant.bhat@hiregange.com

Pune: Rajyog Creations Apts, # 5, 4th Floor (Above HDFC Bank), Anand Park, Aundh Pune - 411 007. Tele: +91 020 4120 2013 Email ID: ravikumar@hiregange.com

Chennai: T3, Amar Sindhur, Pantheon Road Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Tele: +91 044 4858 0801 Email ID: vikram@hiregange.com

Website: www.hiregange.com

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IN THE CUSTOMS, CENTRAL EXCISE, AND SERVICE TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, 1st FLOOR, REAR PORTION OF HMWSSB BUILDING, KHAIRATABAD, HYDERABAD -500 004

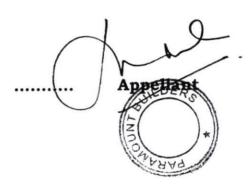
MISC. APPLICATION No/2018
Appeal No/2018

MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATION for seeking Condonation of delay in filing appeal by M/s. Paramount Builders, #5-4-187/3 & 4, II Floor, Soham Mansion, MG Road, Secunderabad, Hyderabad -500 003 w.r.t. to Order-In-Appeal No. HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018 passed by the Commissioner (Appeals-II), 7th Floor, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad- 500 004

M/s. Paramount Builders, #5-4-187/3 & 4, II Floor, Soham Mansion, MG Road, Secunderabad Hyderabad -500 003,

Vs.

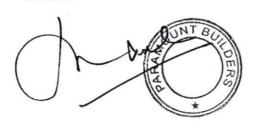
The Commissioner of Central Tax, Secunderabad GST Commissionerate, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad- 500 004



Respondent

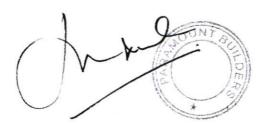
The Applicant humbly submits before Honorable Tribunal as under:

1. Order-In-Appeal No. HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018 passed by the Commissioner (Appeals-II), 7th Floor, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad- 500 004. The subject order was received by the Appellant on 24.05.2018. The time limit of 3 months for filing appeal expires on 23.08.2018 and due date falls on 23.08.2018. The appeal is expected to be filed on 05.09.2018 resulting in 13 days delay. The reason for delay in explained herein below:



- 2. The key managerial person who looks after the finance & accounts affairs of Appellant has resigned from the job suddenly and new person was recruited, who also did not continue in the organization due to personal reasons.
- Since there were frequent changes in the concerned persons, the issue regarding the impugned order was not brought into notice of Management and missed the attention.
- 4. After getting into notice of Management, the Managing Partner has gone through the above referred OIA and instructed the employee to get the appeal drafted from consultants. However, the said employee (3rd person) resigned in the August 2018 without prior notice and missed communicating to the consultant regarding the filing of the appeal.
- After a mean while new person took in charge of the responsibilities and approached consultants for drafting of appeal and submitted the supporting documents.
- 6. The consultants drafted the appeal and sent for verification and approval on 30.08.2018. As the Managing Partner was travelling from 25.08.2018 to 03.09.2018 (Copy of flight tickets enclosed as Annexure A) and the appeal was approved 04.09.2018.

- 7. The signed copy of Appeal memo was sent to consultant for filing on 04.09.2018 and the appeal was expected to be filed on 05.09.2018. With this there has been a delay of **13 days** in filing of Appeal before CESTAT, Hyderabad.
- 8. The applicant humbly prays before the honorable Tribunal to condone the delay as mentioned above:
 - a. The delay was due to the sudden resignation of the concerned employees (3);
 - b. In terms of principles laid down by Apex Court in the case of Commissioner, Land Acquisition v. MST Katiji reported in [1987 (28) ELT 185 (S.C.)], delay may be condoned.



PRAYER

Therefore it is humbly requested to condone the delay of 13 days, in filing the appeal before the Hon'ble CESTAT. Further request to accept the appeal filed.

VERIFICATION

I, Soham Modi, Pastner of M/s. Paramount Builders the Applicant hereinabove, do hereby declare that what is stated above is true to the best of our information and belief.

Verified at Hyderabad on this 5th day of September, 2018

Applican

TICKET - Confirmed

Booking Id: NN2269720557367

FRI, 24 AUG '18

HYDERABAD TO NEWARK LIBERTY INTL

20h 40m



Emirates EK-529

HYD

21:50 hrs, 24 Aug

3h 50m HYDERABAD

DXB DUBAI

Business

00:10 hrs, 25 Aug

Change of Planes. | 2h 50m layover in Dubai (DXB)

Emirates EK-223

DXB

03:00 hrs, 25 Aug

DUBAI

14h 0m

Business

EWR

NEWARK LIBERTY INTL

09:00 hrs, 25 Aug

PASSENGER NAME	PNR	E-TICKET NO.	SEAT
1. Soham Modi, Adult	GB6BTN	176-5356195282	
2. Tejal Modi, Adult	GB6BTN	176-5356195283	

SUN, 02 SEP '18

NEWARK LIBERTY INTL TO HYDERABAD

22h 55m

Emirates EK-224

EWR

11:50 hrs, 02 Sep

NEWARK LIBERTY

INTL

12h 30m

Business

DXB

DUBAI

08:20 hrs, 03 Sep

Emirates

DXB

HYD

DUBAI 15:05 hrs, 03 Sep

Business

HYDERABAD

20:15 hrs, 03 Sep

PASSENGER NAME	PNR	E-TICKET NO.	SEAT
1. Soham Modi, Adult	GB6BTN	176-5356195282	
2. Tejal Modi, Adult	GB6BTN	176-5356195283	

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Check-in Time: Check-in desks will close 2 hours before departure.
- Valid ID proof needed: Please carry a valid Passport and Visa (mandatory for international travel). Passport should have at least 6 months of validity at the time of travel
- To Cancel or Modify this booking, visit: http://support.makemytrip.com
- You have paid: INR 378,736

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

Туре	Sector	Cabin	Check-in
Adult	HYD-DXB	7 Kgs	2 Pc
Adult	DXB-EWR	7 Kgs	2 Pc
Adult	EWR-DXB	7 Kgs	2 Pc
Adult	DXB-HYD	7 Kgs	2 Pc

EXTRA ADDONS

HYD-DXB: Meal Purchased - Vegetarian Hindu Meal

FORM ST - 5

[See rule 9(1)]

Form of Appeal to the Appellate Tribunal under sub-Section (1) of Section 86 of the Finance Act, 1994

IN THE CUSTOMS, CENTRAL EXCISE & SERVICE TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL: HYDERABAD

APPEAL No. ST/.....of 2018

Between:

M/s. Paramount Builders, #5-4-187/3 & 4, II Floor, Soham Mansion, MG Road, Secunderabad Hyderabad -500 003,

 \nearrow

Appellant

Vs.

The Commissioner of Central Tax, Secunderabad GST Commissionerate, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad- 500 004

Respondent

01(a)		AAHFP4040NST001
(b)	Premises Code	
(c)	PAN or UID	AAHFP4040N
(e)	E-mail Address	
(f)	Phone Number	
(g)	Fax Number	E B
02.	The Designation and Address of the Authority passing the Order Appealed against.	Floor, GST Bhavan, L.B.Stadium Road, Basheer Bagh, Hyderabad – 500004
03.	Number and Date of the Order appealed against	O-I-A No: HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2- 026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018
04.	Date of Communication of a copy of the Order appealed against	24.05.2018
05.	State of Union Territory and the Commissionerate in which the order or decision of assessment, penalty, was made	Telangana, Secunderabad GST Commissionerate, Hyderabad-500 04
	If the order appealed against relates to more than one Commissionerate, mention the names of all the Commissionerate, so far as it relates to the Appellant	No
07.	Designation and diress on the	Assistant Commissioner of Service

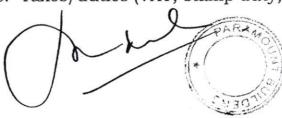
	adjudicating authority in case where the order appealed against is an order of the Commissioner (Appeals)	
08.	Address to which notices may be sent to the appellant	
09.	Address to which notices may be sent to the Respondent	
10.	Whether the decision or order appealed against involves any question having a relation to the rate of Service Tax or to the value of goods for the purpose of assessment.	Yes
11.	Description of service and whether in 'negative list'	Works Contract Services Not in Negative list
12.	Period of Dispute	April 2014 to March 2015
13(i)	Amount of service tax, if any Demanded for the period of dispute	Rs.1,92,667/- (To be requantifed in remand proceedings)
(ii)	date of the order appealed against	Interest u/s 75 of the Finance Act 1994
(iii)	Amount of refund if any, rejected or disallowed for the period of dispute	Not Applicable
(iv)	Amount of penalty imposed	Penalty under Section 76 of Finance Act, 1994
14(i)	Amount of service tax or penalty or Interest deposited. If so, mention the amount deposited under each head in the box.	Rs.14,450/- vide Challan No. 00362 dated 07.02.2018 has been paid towards mandatory predeposit under section 35F of Central Excise Act, 1944 to the extent required
(ii)	If not, whether any application for dispensing with such deposit has been made?	Not applicable
15.	Does the order appealed against also involve any central excise duty demand, and related fine or penalty, so far as the appellant is concerned?	No

16.	Does the order appealed against also involve any customs duty demand, and related penalty, so far as the appellant is concerned?	
17.	Subject matter of dispute in order of priority (please choose two items from the list below) [i) Taxability – Sl. No. of Negative List. ii) Classification of Services iii)Applicability of Exemption Notification No., iv) Export of Services v) Import of Services vi) Point of Taxation vii) CENVAT	Priority ii) – Classification of Services
	viii) Refund ix) Valuation x) Others]	
18.	Central Excise Assessee Code, if registered with Central Excise	Not Applicable
19.	Give details of Importer/Exporter Code (IEC), if registered with Director General Of Foreign Trade	Not Applicable
20.	If the appeal is against an Order-in- appeal of Commissioner (Appeals), theNumber of Order-in-original covered by the said Order-in-Appeal.	Order in Original No.45/2016 – Adjn (ST) (ADC) dated 30.12.2016
21.	Whether the Appellant has also filed Appeal against the order against which this appeal is made.	
22.	If answer to serial number 21 above is 'Yes', furnish details of appeal.	Not Applicable
23.	Whether the appellant wishes to be Heard in person?	Yes. At the earliest convenience of this Honorable Tribunal.
24.	Reliefs claim in appeal	To set aside the impugned order to the extent aggrievedand grant the relief claimed

Signature of the Appellant

STATEMENTS OF FACTS

- A. M/s. Paramount Builders, # 5-4-187/3& 4, II Floor, Soham Mansion, MG Road and Secunderabad 500 003 is a partnership firm (hereinafter referred to as "Appellant") mainly engaged in the sale of residential flats to prospective buyers during and after construction.
- B. Occupancy certificate (OC) for the project was obtained in the year 2010. For the flats booked after receipt of occupancy certificate (OC), sale deed is executed for the entire sale consideration and amounts received towards the additional works (on the flats booked after OC) carried out were assessed for service tax under the category of 'works contract' adopting the taxable value in terms of Rule 2A of Service tax (determination of value) Rules, 2006 i.e. on a presumed value of 40% of the contract value. For the flats booked before OC, Sale deed is being executed for semi-finished construction while construction agreement was executed for balance construction work. In all cases, sale deed is registered and appropriate 'Stamp Duty' has been discharged on the same.
- C. Appellant collects amounts from their customers towards:
 - a. Sale deed for sale of semi-finished villa along with land;
 - b. Construction agreement;
 - c. Other taxable receipts (additions/alternations works)
 - d. Other non-taxable receipts (Corpus fund, electricity deposit, water deposit & service tax);
 - e. Taxes/duties (VAT, stamp duty, service tax etc.,);



- D. The levy of service tax on such arrangements has seen a fair share of litigation and amendments. The Appellant is also a party to the litigation process and matters for earlier periods are pending at various adjudication/judicial forums.
- E. In July 2012, the service tax law underwent a paradigm shift and importantly, the exemption for personal use available for construction of residential complexes was removed. Accordingly, it became evident that service tax was payable on the construction agreement as per valuation prescribed under Rule 2A of the Service Tax (Determination of Value) Rules, 2012 i.e. on a presumed value of 40% of the contract value. The Appellant regularly discharged the service tax on the said value in normal course. However, it did not discharge service tax on sale deed value, which is in the nature of immovable property and on the value of taxes collected.
- F. The detailed working of the receipts and the attribution of the said receipts for the period April 2014 to March 2015 was already provided to the Department authorities, identified receipt wise and flat-wise. The summary of the same is provided hereunder:

Description	Receipts	Non-taxable	Taxable
Sum of towards sale	Rs.38,85,000/-	Rs.38,85,000/-	0
deed		9	
Sum of towards	0	0	0
agreement of	:: ''		
construction	2		
Sum of towards other	Rs.11,985/-	0	Rs.11,985/-
taxable receipts			
Sum of towards VAT,	Rs.4,21,650/-	Rs.4,21,650/-	0
Registration charges,			
etc			
Total	Rs.43,18,635	Rs.43,06,650/-	Rs.11,985/-

- G. Accordingly, the value of taxable services constituted 40% of Rs.11,985/-i.e. Rs.4,794/- and service tax thereon @ 12.36% constituted Rs.593/-. It was also explained that the actual payment of service tax amounted to NIL and the tax required to paid is Rs.593/-.
- H. Previously several SCN's were issued covering the period up to March 2014 with the sole allegation that "services rendered by them after execution of sale deed against agreements of construction to each of their customers to whom the land was already sold vide sale deed are taxable services under "works contract service".
 - a. Vide Para 2 of SCN dated 24.06.2010
 - b. Vide Para 2 of Second SCN dated 23.04.2011
 - c. Vide Para 2 of third SCN dated 24.04.2012

In all the above SCN's, there is an error in as much including the value of sale deeds within the ambit taxable value while alleging service tax is liable only after execution of sale deed i.e. on construction agreements.

I. The status of pending Show Cause Notices are as follows

Period	SCN	Amount	Status
Sep 06 to	HQPQR No. 87/2010 Adjn	Rs.11,80,439/-	Stay granted by
Dec 09	(ST)(ADC) dated		CESTAT vide
	24.06.2010		stay order dated
	Δ.		18.04.2012
Jan 10 to	OR No.60/2011-Adjn (ST)	Rs.4,46,403/-	Pending before
Dec 10	(ADC), dated 23.04.2011		CESTAT,
			Bangalore
Jan 11 to	OR No. 54/2012 Adjn	Rs.46,81,850/-	Pending before
Dec 11	(ADC) dated 24.04.2012	25 90 8824	CESTAT,
			Bangalore
Jan 12 to	C.No.IV/16/16/195/2011	Rs. 2,92,477/-	Pending before
Jun 12	.ST-Gr.X		CESTAT
July 12 to	OR No. 108/2014 Adjn	Rs. 5,20,892/-	Partly confirmed
March 14	(ST) (JC) dated	100	and partly
	19.09.2014		remanded vide
			OIA HYD-
			EXCUS-SC-AP2-

021-18-19-ST
dated
27.04.2018

- J. Another SCN O.R. No. 24/2016-Adjn (ST) (JC) dated 18.04.2016 (Copy of SCN is enclosed as **Annexure** was also issued covering the period from July 2012 to March 2014 with similar error of quantifying the proposed demand of service tax in as much treating the sale deed values & other taxes as taxable value of services (Annexure to SCN) while alleging that service rendered after execution of sale deed alone liable for service tax (Para 2 of SCN).
- K. The liability for the impugned period and the details of the payments are summarized in the below-mentioned table for ready reference:

SI No	Particulars	Amount (Rs.)
1	Gross Receipts	Rs.43,18,635,/-
2	Less: Deductions	
	a) Sale Deed Value	Rs.38,85,000/-
	b) VAT, Registration charges, stamp duty and other non taxable receipts	Rs.4,21,650/-
3	Taxable amount (1-2)	Rs.11,985/-
4	Abatement @ 40% (3 * 40%)	Rs.4,794/-
5	Service Tax @ 12.36% (4 * 12.36%)	Rs.593/-
6	Actually Paid	0
7	Net Demand	593

L. The Appellant had filed a detailed reply to show cause notice (Copy of SCN reply is enclosed as **Annexure** explaining as to how the service tax is not liable to be paid on the sale deed valuewhich is a part of

- immovable property & also attended the personal hearing on 28.12.2016 (Copy of personal hearing record is enclosed as **Annexure**)
- M. Subsequently, Order-in-Original No. 45/2016-Adjn (ST) (ADC) dated 30.12.2016 (Copy of OIO is enclosed as **Annexure** value was passed upholding the total demand after appropriating the amount of service tax paid.
- N. Aggrieved by the order, Appellant has filed an appeal before Commissioner (Appeals-II) (Copy of ST-4 is enclosed as **Annexure**) and appeared for personal hearing on 17.04.2018 (Copy of personal hearing record is enclosed as **Annexure**)
- O. Subsequently, Appellant received the Order-in-Appeal No. HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-0026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018 (Copy of OIA is enclosed as **Annexure**) confirming a part of the demand and remanded back for requantification.
- P. The impugned order confirmed the demands on the following grounds:
 - a. The assessment is made in terms of clause 2(A)(ii)(A) of the Service Tax (Determination of Value) Rules, 2006. The cited Rule 2A underwent a retrospective amendment by Section 129 of the Finance Act, 1994 read with sixth schedule there under. In terms of this retrospective amendment. Where the composite contracts include the land value. The assessment under this Rule 2(A) [applicable for the material period in dispute in the instant case] would be in terms of Sl.No. 2 of the Table at Schedule VI of the Finance Act, 2017 since there is no dispute that clause (ii) under Rule 2A is to be applied only

- after exhausting clause (i) and the same has actually been applied in the instant case
- b. The department viewed that the activity carried out by the appellant after the execution of sale deed is taxable under the category of Works Contract Merely because the notice differentiates the activity of the appellant in respect of the sale of the semi-finished flats sold by the appellant and the subsequent activity of Works Contract Services as per the contract agreements; this in itself is insufficient to conclude the value of semi-finished flats is inconsequential for arriving at the gross receipts for the assessment to tax. If the appellant's view is accepted, there would have been no need to issue the Show Cause Notice in the first place since, the liability on the finishing contract is undisputed; It is only inclusion of the value of the sale deed (including unfinished flat built on composite contract of land+ unfinished flat) that is disputed in the instant case.
- c. he activity of the appellant, Works Contract Service agreed upon by the appellant and only objection to the notices issued was regarding the valuation of the contract undertaken by him. This being the case, when the changes in the law were effected, the basic definitions of the activities were not changed and remained the same though the liability was governed by the new provisions. As submitted by the appellant themselves. Works Contract Services was defined under provided Section 65B (90)abatements under and Notification referred to. Further the grounds mentioned in the earlier periodical notices were also the same demanding tax on the Works

Contract Services provided by the appellant. Therefore, I do not find any infirmity in the notice referring to the allegations in the earlier notices and making the same applicable to the present notice in terms of Section 73(1A) of the Act.

d. Post 01.07.2012, there has been no doubt regarding the payment of Service Tax under the category of works contract, and the appellant cannot hide behind the excuse of the disputed issue being under litigation. If the appellant has already paid tax on the activity for which the demand is raised, then the penalty would be accordance to the Short paid/ not paid demand quantified based on the remand made. Furthermore, I am also restrained from allowing the benefit of Section 80 as the same has been omitted from the statue as on the date of adjudication, without saving/ repeal in respect of the existing impositions, by Section 116 of the Finance Act, 2015. The waiver provision is therefore not available for invocation. The penalty under Sec 76 is specific to non discharge of tax and does not require allegation of gross violations; and imposable for the malfeasance where the notice is issued for normal period of limitation

To the extent aggrieved by impugned order, which is contrary to facts, law and evidence, apart from being contrary to a catena of judicial decisions and beset with grave and incurable legal infirmities, the Appellant prefers this appeal on the following grounds (which are alternate pleas and without prejudice to one another) amongst those to be urged at the time of hearing of the appeal.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

 Appellant submits that the impugned order (to the extent aggrieved) is exfacie illegal and untenable in law since the same is contrary to facts and judicial decisions.

In re: The allegation in SCN and the finding of impugned OIA is that Appellant has to pay service tax on the "construction agreements", which has been paid properly by Appellant. Therefore, the demand needs to be set aside on this ground itself:

- 2. Appellant submits that undoubtedly they are discharging service tax on construction agreements thereby paying service tax on activity as proposed by impugned SCN read with earlier SCN's and as confirmed by the impugned OIA. The SCN included the value of sale deeds only at the time of quantifying the demand. As seen from the operative part of both SCN & OIA it is clear that it is only sole allegation of SCN (Para 2) & finding of OIA(Para 8) that construction agreements are subject to service tax under the category of "works contract", no allegation has been raised to demand service tax on the sale deed value.
- 3. As stated in the background facts, the Appellant started paying service tax on the value of "construction agreements" from July 2012 onwards. Thereafter, the said taxes have been regularly paid. The details of the taxes paid are also acknowledged in Para 4 of the SCN. On a perusal of the SCN, it is evident that the issue in the current SCNs is therefore limited to the aspect of quantification of demand. On a perusal of Para 4 of the SCN which quantifies the demand, it can be easily inferred that the

demand is quantified based on statements submitted by the Appellant.

The said statements for the periods are enclosed as **Annexure**

- 4. On going through the statements provided by the Appellant, it can be seen that a detailed breakup of the amount received towards "sale deeds", "construction agreements", 'other taxable receipts' and 'other non-taxable receipts' was provided.
- 5. However, on going through the quantification of demand provided through annexure to the SCN, it can also be observed that though the allegation is to demand service tax on construction agreements, the quantification is based on gross amounts mentioned above for all the activities including amounts received towards the "sale deeds".
- 6. It is therefore apparent that the SCN/order represents an error in quantification of the demand. It may be noted that the Appellant have regularly and diligently discharged Service Tax on the value of "construction agreements" after June 2012 onwards. The above is explained through a comparative chart provided below:

Particulars	As per Appellant	As per SCN
Gross Receipts	43,18,635	43,18,635
Less: Deductions		
Sale Deed Value	38,85,000	0
VAT, Registration charges, stamp	4,21,650	4,21,650
duty and other non taxable receipts		
Taxable amount	11,985	38,96,985
Abatement @ 40%	4794	15,58,794
Service Tax @ 12.36%	593	1,92,667
Actually Paid	0	0
Balance Demand	593	1,92,667





7. The Appellant submit that once the apparent error in calculation is taken to its logical conclusion, the entire demand fails and therefore there is no cause of any grievance by the department on this ground.

In Re: Impugned Order is beyond SCN

- 8. Appellant submits that the impugned order has went beyond the SCN in as much as confirming the demand on the portion of semi-finished flat in the sale deed which was never a proposition in the Show Cause Notice. For easy reference para 2 of the SCN is extracted as follows "As there involved the transfer of property in goods in execution of the said construction agreements, it appears that the services rendered by them after execution of sale deed against agreements of construction to each of their customers to whom the land was already sold are taxable services under "Works Contract Service"
- 9. It was never proposition of the SCN to tax the activities involved in the Sale deed and thus it can be seen that the impugned order has clearly traveled beyond the SCN and hence is not valid to that extent. Reliance is placed on the following in this regard.
 - i. Ultratech Cement Vs CCE Nagpur 2011 (022) S.T.R 289 (Tri-Bom) whereinit was held that "therefore the proposition made by the learned SDR, which is liable to be rejected as beyond the scope of the show-cause notices, is not acceptable otherwise also".
 - Caliber Point Business Solutions Ltd. Vs CST, Mumbai 2010 (18)
 S.T.R 737 (Tri-Mumbai) wherein it was held that "On careful

examination of the issue involved in this case, I find that the adjudicating authority has gone beyond the scope of show-cause notice, while denying the refund claim on the ground of non-utilization of Cenvat credit and difference in S.T.-3. The adjudicating authority cannot go beyond the allegation made in the show-cause notice, hence the denial of Cenvat credit not utilized and the difference in S.T.-3 are not sustainable and the refund is allowed."

- 10. Since there is no proposition in the SCN with respect to taxability of the Sale deed the impugned order passed on the basis of the same is not correct and on this count alone the impugned order needs to be set aside.
- 11. Impugned order vide Para 9 stated that "If the appellant's view is accepted, there would have been no need to issue the Show Cause Notice in the first place since, the liability on the finishing contract is undisputed; It is only inclusion of the value of the sale deed (including unfinished flat built on composite contract of land+ unfinished flat) that is disputed in the instant case"
- 12. In this regard Appellant submits that as rightly stated by the impugned order, the liability after execution of sale deed is undisputed and it has been accepted by the Appellant also. Further Appellant has been submitting the same aspect from the inception of the proceedings that the Show Cause Notice is not warranted; however Adjudicating authority

has failed to appreciate the fact. When the issuance of Show Cause Notice is not warranted, the order passed based on the same is not valid and hence needs to be set aside.

In Re: Service tax liability on the sale of semi-finished

- 13. Without prejudice to the above, Appellant submits that operative part of SCN it is clear that it is the only sole allegation of SCN (Para 2) that construction agreements are subject to service tax under the category of "works contract", no allegation has been raised to demand service tax on the sale deed value. Whereas the value of sale deed is also included in the quantification of demand. However, the Hon'ble Commissioner (Appeals-II) has remanded back the case for re-quantification of demand after giving deduction towards land value involved in the sale deed and by making the remaining part of sale deed value as taxable.
- 14. In this regard, Appellant submits that semi-finished villa/house represents the construction work already done prior to booking of villa/house by the prospective buyer. The work undertaken till that time of booking villa/house is nothing but work done for self as there is no service provider and receiver. It is settled law that there is no levy of service tax on the self-service and further to be a works contract, there should be a contract and any work done prior to entering of such contracts cannot be bought into the realm of works contract. In this regard, reliance is placed on the following:

a. Apex court judgment in Larsen and Toubro Limited v. State of Karnataka — 2014 (34) S.T.R. 481 (S. Oberhereing), was held that "115.

It may, however, be clarified that activity of construction undertaken by the developer would be works contract only from the stage the developer enters into a contract with the flat purchaser. The value addition made to the goods transferred after the agreement is entered into with the flat purchaser can only be made chargeable to tax by the State Government."

- b. CHD Developers Ltd vs State of Haryana and others, 2015 -TIOL-1521-HC P&H-VAT wherein it was held that "45. In view of the above, essentially, the value of the immovable property and any other thing done prior to the date of entering of the agreement of sale is to be excluded from the agreement value. The value of goods in a works contract in the case of a developer etc. on the basis of which VAT is levied would be the value of the goods at the time of incorporation in the works even where the property in goods passes later. Further, VAT is to be directed on the value of the goods at the time of incorporation and it should not purport to tax the transfer of immovable property."
- 15. Appellant further submits that to be covered under the definition of works contract, one of the vital conditions is that there should be transfer of property in goods leviable for sales tax/VAT. Undisputedly sale of undivided portion of land along with semi-finished villa/house is not chargeable to VAT and it is mere sale of immovable property (same was supported by above-cited judgments also). Therefore said sale cannot be considered as works contract and consequently no service tax is liable to be paid.

owner have been self-consumed and not transferred to anybody. Further goods, being used in the construction of semi-finished villa/house, have lost its identity and been converted into an immovable property which cannot be considered as goods therefore the liability to pay service under 'works contract service' on the portion of semi-constructed villa represented by 'sale deed' would not arise.

- 16. Without prejudice to the foregoing, Appellant submits that there is no service tax levy on the sale of semi-finished villa/house as the same was excluded from the definition of 'service' itself. The relevant portion of definition *qua* section 65B(44) reads as follows:
 - a) an activity which constitutes merely,—
 - (i) a transfer of title in goods or immovable property, by way

 of sale, gift or in any other manner; or
- 17. Appellant submits that to be covered under the above exclusion the following ingredients shall be satisfied:
 - a. There should be transfer of title:

Transfer of title means "change in ownership" and in the instant case, there is change in ownership from Appellant to their customer since after execution of 'sale deed' customer is the owner of "said immovable property" thereby this condition is satisfied.

b. Such transfer should be in goods or immovable property:

What constitutes immovable property was nowhere defined in the provisions of Finance Act, 1994 or rules made thereunder. It is

pertinent to refer to the definition given in section 3 of Transfer of property act 1882 which reads as follows:

"Immovable property" does not include standing timber, growing crops or grass"

Further section 3 of the General clauses act, 1897 which reads as follows:

"Immovable property" shall **include land**, benefits to arise out of the land, and **things attached to** the earth, or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Reading of the above, undisputedly "land along with semi-finished villa/house" is immovable property thereby this condition was also met.

c. It is by way of sale, gift or other manner

In the instant case execution of 'sale deed' & payment of applicable stamp duty itself evidences that there is sale. Further, it is pertinent to consider the definition given under section 54 of the Transfer of Property Act, 1882. In absence of the definition of "sale" in the provisions of Finance Act, 1994 and relevant extract reads as follows:

"Sale" is a transfer of ownership in exchange for a price paid or promised or part-paid and part promised. Sale how made — Such transfer, in the case of tangible immovable property of the value of one hundred rupees and upwards, or in the case of a reversion or other intangible thing, can be made only by a registered instrument.

In the instant case also there is transfer of ownership and price was also paid (part of the price is promised to pay and transfer was made

by executing 'sale deed' which is validity registered with stamp authorities. Therefore, undoubtedly there is sale thereby this condition was also met.

d. Merely

Undoubtedly 'sale deed' was executed to transfer the title in the immovable property only and such transaction (sale of immovable property) does not involve any other activity namely construction activity as the same done entering separate agreement Misconstructed by the impugned SCN.

Therefore all the above conditions were satisfied in the instant case thereby making the transaction falling under said exclusion and hence amounts received towards 'sale deed' are not subject to service tax.

- 18. Appellant further submits that if two transactions, although associated, are two discernibly separate transactions then each of the separate transactions would be assessed independently. In other words, the discernible portion of the transaction, which constitutes a transfer of title in the immovable property would be excluded from the definition of service by operation of the said exclusion clause while the service portion would be included in the definition of service. In the instant case, it was well discriminated the activity involved & amounts received towards
 - i. Sale of "land along with semi-finished villa" ('sale deed' separately)
 - ii. Construction activity (by executing a construction agreement)



- 19. Appellant submits that whatever the activity involved & amounts received towards construction agreement was suffered service tax and again taxing the associated transaction alleging that construction was involved is not warranted under the Finance Act, 1994 more so in case when there is clear separation/bifurcation/vivisection of activity involved & amounts received towards such associated transactions from the activity of construction.
- 20. Appellant submits that from the above exclusive portion of the definition of service it is clear that it specifically excluded the **Sale/transfer of immovable property.** In the present case, the agreement of sale deed is entered for sale/register of semi-finished flat which is an immovable property. Accordingly, the amount received for sale of semi-finished flat, is excluded from the definition of service. On the basis of same, Appellant submits that the confirmation of demand by OIA on the Appellant is not sustainable and requires to be set aside.
- 21. Appellant submits that Article 265 of the Constitution of India is extracted for ready reference

"No Tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law"

22. Appellant submits that from the above it is clear that Article 265 prohibits the levy or collection of the tax except by authority of law.

Therefore the law should be within the legislative entries in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The question is whether the Parliament is

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empowered to levy the service tax on sale of materials, undivided share of land & others.

23. Appellant submits that Parliament is empowered to levy the service tax vide Entry No. 97 of List of Seventh Schedule to Constitution of India. The Entry No. 97 is extracted here for ready reference.

97. Any other matter not enumerated in List II or List III including any tax not mentioned in either of those Lists.

24. Appellant submits that from the above it is clear that the Parliament under Entry 97 can levy the tax on matters, which are not covered under List II and List III. The question is whether the tax on sale of immovable property i.e., is not covered under List III. Relevant entries of the List III are extracted here for ready reference.

List III-6. Transfer of property other than agricultural land; registration of deeds and documents

25. From the above, it is clear that the tax on the transfer of immovable property is covered under List III and Service Tax which is levied under entry no. 97 is not applicable for the sale /transfer of immovable property. On the basis of the same, Appellant submits that Service Tax is not applicable for sale/transfer of immovable property. As the impugned order has not considered this aspect, the same is sustainable and requires to be set aside.

26. Appellant submits that the subject SCN has computed service tax liability also on the receipts received for sale of semi-finished flat under works contract service. For this Appellant submits that section 67 of the Finance Act, 1994 reads as follows.

"SECTION67. Valuation of taxable services for charging service tax. — (1) Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, where service tax is chargeable on any taxable service with reference to its value, then such value shall, —

- (i) in a case where the provision of service is for a consideration in money, be the gross amount charged by the service provider for such service provided or to be provided by him;
- (ii) in a case where the provision of service is for a consideration not wholly or partly consisting of money, be such amount in money as, with the addition of service tax charged, is equivalent to the consideration;" (iii) in a case where the provision of service is for a consideration which is not ascertainable, be the amount as may be determined in the prescribed manner."
- 27. Appellant submits that from the analysis of section 67 of the Finance Act, 1994, it is clear that service tax requires to be paid on the value of the **services rendered.** In the present case, the impugned order has gone beyond the valuation provisions and demanding service tax even on the amount received for sale of the semi-finished flat. On the basis of the same, Appellant submits that the impugned order demanding service tax beyond the provisions of section 67 is not sustainable and requires to be set aside.

28. Appellant submits that Hon'ble High Court in the decision of GD Builders VS Union of India 2013 (32) STR 673 held that in case of a composite contract, the service element should be bifurcated and ascertained and then taxed. In the present case service, there are two separate transactions one is sale of semi-finished flat and second one is construction service. Accordingly, the proposition of the above case law can be applied. On the basis of same also, Appellant submits that demand of service tax on the sale of immovable property is not sustainable and requires to be set aside

In Re: Sale of Semi-finished flats is not a works contract

- 29. The impugned OIA has stated to aggregate the value of the semiconstructed flat to the gross value of the finishing works contract in the second construction agreement.
- 30. Appellant further submits that the definition of works contract provided under new service tax law is as follows.

65B(54) "works contract" means a contract wherein transfer of property in goods involved in the execution of such contract is leviable to tax as sale of goods and such contract is for the purpose of carrying out construction, erection, commissioning, installation, completion, fitting out, repair, maintenance, renovation, alteration of any movable or immovable property or for carrying out any other similar activity or a part thereof in relation to such property;

- 31. Appellant submits that from the definition of works contract as provided under section 65B(54) of the Finance Act, 1994, it is clear that to cover under the definition of works contract.
 - a. There should be a contract. (Only a Single Contract)
 - In such a contract, there should be transfer of property in goods
 and
 - c. Such a contract is for the purposes of carrying out, specified services.
- 32. Appellant submits that in the present case, their agreement of construction may liable under the definition of works contract as provided under section 65B(54) of the Finance Act, 1994 and they are paying appropriate service tax as per Rule 2A of the Service Tax (Determination of Value) Rules, 2006. The impugned order is demanding service tax on the sale of semi-finished flat under works contract service, which is beyond the definition of works contract service. On the basis of the same, Appellant submits that the confirming of the demand by the order on the value of sale of semi-finished flat is not sustainable and requires to be set aside.
- 33. Appellant submits that the transaction of sale of semi-finished flat is not covered under the definition of works contract due to the following reasons.
 - a. The Appellant has entered two separate transactions with the customer, whereas the definition requires only one contract.

- b. The transaction is for sale of semi-finished flat and not for construction.
- c. As the present transaction of the Appellant is not covered under the definition of works contract, hence service tax under works contract service is not sustainable and requires to be set aside.
- d. In many cases, the "sale deed" is entered into after the completion of the building and therefore the demand cannot be justified under the said entries.
- e. Until the stage of entering into a "sale deed", the transaction is essentially one of the sale of immovable property and therefore excluded from the purview of Service Tax.
- 34. In this regard, Appellant submits that the impugned order has rightly given the deduction to the land value involved in the sale deed since it is in the nature of the immovable property. However, the impugned order has failed to apply the same analogy to the semi-finished portion of the sale deed which acquired the character of the immovable property.
- 35. Appellant submits that para 7 of the impugned order has stated that the Notice has been rightly issued under section 73 (1A) of the Finance Act, 1994. In this regard, Appellant submits that the analogy of the order is not acceptable since the definition of the service has been changed and certain exclusions are provided for the definition of service. Since the activities under taken by the Appellant falls under the exclusion part of the definition of the Service, there is no levy on the same. If that us the

case, reference to the definition of taxable service under section 65(105) is legally incorrect and the SCN is invalid.

In Re: Interest and penalties are not imposable/payable:

- 36. Impugned order vide para 13 states that "If the appellant has already paid tax on the activity for which the demand is raised, then the penalty would be in accordance to the short paid/ not paid demand quantified based on the remand made"
- 37. In this regard, Appellant submits that when service tax itself is not payable, the question of interest does not arise. Appellant further submits that it is a natural corollary that when the principal is not payable there can be no question of paying any interest as held by the Supreme Court in Prathiba Processors Vs. UOI, 1996 (88) ELT 12 (SC).
- 38. Appellant submits that imposition of penalty cannot be merely an automatic consequence of failure to pay duty hence the order needs be set aside.
- 39. Appellant submits that they are under bonafide belief that the amounts received towards sale deeds are not subjected to service tax. It settled position of the law that if the Appellant is under bonafide belief as regards to nontaxability imposition of the penalties are not warranted. In this regards wishes to rely on the following judicial pronouncements.
 - > CCE-II Vs Nita Textiles & Industries 2013 (295) E.L.T 199 (Guj)
 - CCE, Bangalore-II Vs ITC Limited 2010 (257) E.L.T 514 (Kar)

- Larsen & Toubro Ltd Vs CCE., Pune-II 2007 (211) E.L.T 513
 (S.C)
- Centre For Development Of Advanced Computing Vs CCE, Pune 2002 (141) E.L.T 6 (S.C).
- 40. Impugned order vide para 11 stated that "I am also restrained from allowing the benefit of Section 8 as the same has been omitted from the statute as on the date of adjudication without saving/repeal in respect of the existing impositions, by section 116 of the Finance Act, 2015"
- 41. In this regard, Appellant submits that above finding ignored the Article 20(1) of the Constitution of India which reads as under:
 - "20. (1) No person shall be convicted of any offense except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the Act charged as an offense, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offense."
- 42. Appellant submits that section 80 was omitted by the Finance Act, 2015 only (with prospective effect) and the subject period is prior to such omission. Therefore at the time of disputed period, the waiver under section 80 is available therefore finding of impugned OIO is not valid as it contrary to the constitution.
- 43. Further according to Section 6 of the General Clause Act, 1897, it is clear that unless a different intention appears, the repeat shall not

affect any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred of any offense committed against any enactment so repealed. Therefore the essential idea of a legal system is that current law should govern current activities.

- 44. The Appellant craves leave to alter, add to and/or amend the aforesaid grounds.
- 45. The Appellant wishes to be heard in person before passing any other in this regard.

Signature of the Appellant

PRAYER

Wherefore it is prayed that

- a. To set aside the impugned order to the extent aggrieved;
- b. To hold that the service tax has been paid on the value of the construction agreement as alleged in the SCN and therefore the order needs to be set aside;
- c. If required, to hold that even on merits the amounts received towards sale deed is not taxable;
- d. To hold that no interest and penalties are leviable;
- e. To hold that Appellant is eligible for the benefit of waiver of the penalty under Section 80 of the Finance Act, 1994;
- f. Any other consequential relief shall be granted;

VERIFICATION

I, Soham Modi, , Pastner of M/s. Paramount Builders, the Appellants herein do declare that what is stated above is true to the best of our information and belief.

Appella

Verified today 5th day of September 2018

Place: Hyderabad

DECLARATION

I/We, Soham Modi, Portner	of	Appellant,	do
hereby declare that subject matter not previously filed or p	pend	ding before a	any
other legal forum including Hon'ble High Courts/Supreme	Cot	urt.	

The Appellant further declare that they have not previously filed any appeal, writ petition or suit regarding the impugned order, before any court or any other authority or any other Bench of the Tribunal."

Declared today the 5^{th} day of September 2018 at Hyderabad

Appellant

IN THE CUSTOMS, CENTRAL EXCISE, AND SERVICE TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, 1st FLOOR, REAR PORTION OF HMWSSB BUILDING, KHAIRATABAD, HYDERABAD -4

Sub: Appeal against the order of the Commissioner of Central Tax (Appeals-II) in O-I-A No: HYD-EXCUS-SC-AP2-026-18-19-ST dated 27.04.2018

- Appellant, hereby authorize and appoint Hiregange & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Hyderabad or their partners and qualified staff who are authorized to act as an authorized representative under the relevant provisions of the law, to do all or any of the following acts: -
 - To act, appear and plead in the above noted proceedings before the above authorities or any other authorities before whom the same may be posted or heard and to file and take back documents.
 - To sign, file verify and present pleadings, applications, appeals, crossobjections, revision, restoration, withdrawal and compromise applications, replies, objections and affidavits etc., as may be deemed necessary or proper in the above proceedings from time to time.
 - To Sub-delegate all or any of the aforesaid powers to any other representative and I/We do hereby agree to ratify and confirm acts done by our above-authorized representative or his substitute in the matter as my/our own acts as if done by me/us for all intents and purposes

This authorization will remain in force till it is duly revoked by me/us/ Executed this 5th day of September 2018 at Hyderabad

Signature

Chartered

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I the undersigned partner of M/s Hiregange & Associates, Chartered Accountants, do hereby declare that the said M/s Hiregange & Associates is a registered firm of Chartered Accountants and all its partners are Chartered Accountants holding certificate of practice and duly qualified to represent in above proceedings under Section 35Q of the Central Excises Act, 1944. I accept the above-said appointment on behalf of M/s Hiregange & Associates. The firm will represent through any one or more of its partners or Staff members who are qualified to represent before the above authorities.

Dated: 95.09.2018

Address for service:

Hiregange & Associates, Chartered Accountants, 4th Floor, West Block, Srida Anushka Pride, Opp. Ratnadeep Supermarket, Road Number 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034 For Hiregange & Associates

Chartered Accountants & A

Venkata Prasad P Partner (M. No. 236558)

I Partner/Employee/Associate of M/s. Hiregange & Associates duly qualified to represent in above proceedings in terms of the relevant law, also accept the above said authorization and appointment.

SI No.	Name	Qualification	Mem./Roll No.	Signature
01	Sudhir V. S.	CA	219109	08°
02	Lakshman Kumar K	CA	241726	