Order-in-Review

Sunbright Fashions (India) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai (here-in-after referred to as ‘the Petitioner’) filed a Review Petition dated 17.09.2012 under Section 16 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 as amended (here-in-after referred to as ‘the Act’) against Order-in-Original (OIO) No. 04/21/40/696/AM06 dated 19.01.2011 passed by Adjudicating Authority imposing a penalty of Rs. Rs.2,25,000/- in addition of Customs duty and applicable interest on the Petitioner and its Proprietor/Partners/Directors for non fulfilment of export obligation and also ordered not to issue further license to the Petitioner or to any other firm/company in which the Proprietor/Partners/Directors are directly or indirectly involved.

Brief Facts of the Case

2.1 The Petitioner obtained an Advance Authorization No. 0410075149 dated 05.10.2005 for a CIF value of Rs. 6,03,706.80/- (US$13694.04) with an obligation to export for an FOB value of US $ 39378.04 within a period of 24 months from the date of issue of said authorization. As per conditions of the Authorisation, the Petitioner was required to submit the prescribed documentary evidence of having fulfilled its export obligation (EO).
2.2 EO Period expired on 30.09.2007. The Petitioner did not submit prescribed documents despite request. A Show Cause Notice dated 05.10.2010 under Sections 13 & 14 for action under Sections 8, 9 & 11 of the Act and Rule 7 of Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 was issued. It was also granted an opportunity of personal hearing. The Petitioner neither submitted documents nor appeared for personal hearing. As the Petitioner failed to submit complete requisite documents, an OIO dated 19.01.2011 was passed by Adjudicating Authority imposing a penalty of Rs. 2,25,000/- in addition of Customs duty and applicable interest on the Petitioner and its Proprietor/ Partners/Directors for non fulfilment of export obligation.

2.3 The Petitioner did not file an appeal against OIO 04/21/40/696/AM06 dated 19.01.2011. The Petitioner submitted a review petition dated 17.09.2012 to the undersigned. The Petitioner has submitted that:

(i) It had already submitted all documents or 04.05.2009 towards discharge of export obligations and paid customs duty and applicable interest of Rs.61,565/- on excess import,

(ii) the penalty amount of Rs.2,25,000/ was disproportionate and unjustifiable in view of the fact that customs duty and applicable interest of Rs.61,565/- on excess import of 2631.66 sq.m. of fabric was paid on 26.04.2011,

(iii) there was severe labour trouble on account of retrenchment and the Petitioner was continuously incurring loss which caused great agony and therefore could not file an appeal against OIO,

(iv) it was under impression that on the basis of the documents furnished, the matter will be regularized by the J-DDGFT even after passing the OIO.

3.0 The Petitioner was granted personal hearing on 07.06.2021 which was attended by Shri Hari Radhakrishnan, Advocate for the Petitioner. He informed that he would submit written submissions. The Petitioner vide email dated 08.06.2021 submitted that it had fulfilled substantial part of export obligation and made excess import of 2631.66 sq.m. of fabric and paid customs duty and applicable interest of Rs. 61,565 on 26.04.2011. It submitted all documents towards fulfilment of export obligation on 04.05.2009 and 17.12.2009 well before passing the Order-in-Original dated 19.01.2011. RA, Chennai vide email dated 09.06.2021 has informed that the Petitioner had paid custom duty and applicable interest on the excess import of fabric on 06.05.2011 but has not paid custom duty and interest on the excess import of zippers.
4.0 I have gone through the facts and records carefully and observed that the Petitioner had submitted complete export documents. However, it made excess import of zippers and has not paid the custom duty and applicable interest on it.

5.0 I, therefore, in exercise of powers vested in me under Section 16 of the Act pass the following order:

Order

F.No. 18/28/2012-13/ECA.I

Dated: 17.08.2021

Review petition dated 17.09.2012 is upheld and Order-in-Original No. 04/21/40/696/AM06 dated 19.01.2011 is dismissed. The case is remanded to RA, Chennai for de novo consideration with directions to decide the matter within 8 weeks from the date of issue of this Order.

(Amit Yadav)
Director General of Foreign Trade

Copy To:

2. The Addl. Director General of Foreign Trade, 26, Haddows Road, 4th Floor, Shashtri Bhavan Annexe, Chennai-600 006.
3. CEIB, 8th floor, 'B'- Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi -110001
4. DGFT website

(Dilip Kumar)
Dy. Director General of Foreign Trade