

Non-filing of the returns does not empower the GST Authorities to cancel the registration retrospectively

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In some cases, such is the interpretation of some of certain field officers that SCNs flow to recipients of earlier supplies, even after a prospective cancellation/suspension of registration of suppliers after the date of such supply. Hence, retrospective cancellation would certainly involve denial of ITC of recipients who have received supplies before the cancellation/suspension of registration. However, It seems that for certain GST field officers cancellation of registration means retrospective cancellation – something which has serious ramifications.

Section 29 of the CGST Act, 2017, grants discretionary powers to the concerned authority to cancel the registration from a retrospective date. However, such powers have to be exercised only in eligible cases. Cancellation on grounds that the petitioner had not filed the returns for a continuous period of six months does not justify retrospective cancellation from the date when the registration was granted. Where the taxpayer has closed its business altogether and thereafter stopped filing returns, a stand cannot be taken by the dept. to cancel the GST registration retrospectively thereby even making the earlier supplies of the taxpayer irregular.

It's a simple case when one reads the order in hindsight but it had to be contested by the taxpayer in High Court and a decree taken in the case of ASHISH GARG PROPRIETOR SHRI RADHEY TRADERS Vs ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF STATE GOODS AND SERVICE TAX, DELHI ZONE 7 WARD 82 [2023-VIL-476-DEL]

BRIEF ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Vivek Jalan is a Chartered Accountant & a qualified L. LM & LL.B. He is the Founder & Partner of Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP. He is the Chairman of The Indirect Tax Core Group of The Confederation of Indian Industries – Economic Affairs and Taxation Committee (ER). He is the Chairman of The Fiscal Affairs and Taxation Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is the Member of The Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He is a regular Columnist and guest expert in Economic Times, Business Standard, Times of India, Dalal Street Journal, Money Control, Live mint, CNBC, Hindustan Times, Zee Business, Financial Express, other dailies and business magazines like Business Today, etc. He is also a guest expert on Taxation matters in All India Radio and other media platforms. He is the Editor of Weekly Bulletin TAX CONNECT, a publication on Direct and Indirect Taxes which reaches more than 70000 professionals.

He is also a visiting faculty in The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, The Indian Chamber of Commerce, The Merchant Chamber of Commerce and other Business Forums. He has also delivered Lectures at various Government Taxation Forums including the CGST & SGST Departments across the country.

He has worked as a Finance Manager in ITC Ltd. and Chief Compliance Officer with IntraSoft Technologies Ltd. He has more than 18 years of experience in the field of Information Technology, Finance, Taxation and Logistics. He was also an All-India Rank holder in CA Final Examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

His Books include the following –

- COMMENTARY ON UNION BUDGET 2023 – February 2023
- HOW TO HANDLE GST LITIGATION– September 2022
- HANDBOOK ON GST– June 2022
- GST PLEADING & PRACTISE – August 2021 – **India's Bestseller**
- UNION BUDGET 2021 – February 2021
- SECTIONWISE COMPENDIUM ON GST – October 2020
- INTEGRATED APPROACH TO E-INVOICING E-WAYBILL & RETURN FILING – October 2020
- COMMENTARY ON UNION BUDGET 2020– Feb 2020
- COMMENTARY ON UNION BUDGET 2019 – July 2019
- WITHDRAWAL OF LEGAL TENDER 2016
- COMMENTARY ON UNION BUDGET 2017
- SECTION-WISE COMPENDIUM ON GST – Oct 2020
- INTEGRATED APPROACH TO GST E-INVOICE, E-WAYBILL & RETURN E-FILING – Oct 2020
- **SECTION-WISE COMMENTARY ON GST – SEPTEMBER 2018**
- HOW TO HANDLE GST-TDS, GST-TCS, GST AUDIT & GST ANNUAL RETURN – NOVEMBER 2018
- A COMPENDIUM ON GST W.E.F. 1ST JULY 2017
- GST MODEL LAW (NOVEMBER 2016) & BUSINESS PROCESSES – A TECHNICAL COMMENTARY
- GST MODEL LAW (JUNE 2016) & BUSINESS PROCESSES – A TECHNICAL COMMENTARY
- "SERVICE TAX AND VAT IN WORKS CONTRACT: A COMPREHENSIVE TECHNICAL GUIDE".

He is a regular speaker at various professional forums on the various key areas in Finance and has delivered more than 300 lectures on various topics under Information Technology, Finance, GST, Customs, Foreign Trade Policy of India, Income Tax, etc.