

- ♦ Excise Rates increased from 10% to 12%, 5% to 6% and 1% to 2% with effect from 17/3/2012.
- ♦ 1% levy continues for Coal, Jewellery, Mobiles and Nonfertilizers under Chap 31.
- ♦ Cement, Cigarettes and Footwear brought under Section 4A of CE Act. (Ref: Notification 7/2012 CE NT)
- Cigarettes notified under Third Schedule to CE Act. (Ref: The Sixth Schedule)

- ♦ Abatement on Readymade Garments increased from 55% to 70%. (Ref: Notification 17/2012 CE NT)
- ♦ Procedural changes on return of Readymade Garments (Ref: Notification 8/2012 CE)
- → Parts of Mobiles for OE purpose Fully exempted (Ref: SI.No.272 of Notification 12/2012 CE)
- ightharpoonup Spares to attract 2% (Ref: Notification 16/2012 CE).
- ♦ Cars to cost dearer (Ref: Notification 12/2012 CE)

- ♦ Unbranded Articles of Jewellery to attract 1% levy
- ♦ Silver Jewellery exempted. (Ref: SI.No.199 of Notification 12/2012 CE)
- → Branded Coins of Gold and Silver exempted subject to purity (Ref: SI.No.200 of Notification 12/2012 CE)
- Option of Job worker to register dispensed Rule 12AA (Ref: Notification 8/2012 CE NT)

- ♦ Offences under amended Section 9/Section 9A reclassified as cognisable/noncognisable offshoot of Supreme Court verdict (Ref: Clause 131 of the Finance Bill 2012)

- ♦ Increase in Baggage Allowance 25K to 35K for Pax of Indian Origin & 12K to 15K to Children up to 10 years
- ♦ Importer of specified goods to declare the State of first sale of such goods and VAT Registration number w.e.f.
 1/5/2012 (Ref: Notification 21/2012 Cus)

CUSTOMS

- ♦ Analogous provisions brought in Customs Act in respect of Arrest and Prosecution (Ref: Clause 120 & 121 of Finance Bill 2012)
- ♦ Section 104 substituted and Section 104A introduced
- ♦ Section 28AAA introduced to facilitate demand on import using export promotion instruments. (Ref: Clause 116 of the Finance Bill 2012)

CUSTOMS

- ♦ Optional 5% payment on exempted goods and services under Rule 6 of CCR – increased to 6%
- ♦ Removal of capital goods redefined Refer Rule 3(5) & 3(5A) - the credit to be reversed either as per the depreciation route or as per transaction value, whichever is higher
- ♦ No distinction between used capital goods and scrap to be effective from 17/3/2012

CENVAT CREDIT

- ◆ CENVAT Credit allowed on Capital goods and inputs to service providers based on documentary evidence for delivery at the location – No need to bring it to the registered premises. (Ref: Rule 4(1) & 4(2) of CCR)
- → Rule 5 refund simplified; New Formula [{(Export turnover of goods + Export turnover of Services) * Net CENVAT Credit} / Total turnover] one year transition period permitted
- Limited availability of CENVAT credit on Motor vehicles to manufacturers as Capital Goods.

CENVAT CREDIT

- ♦ ISD Restricted Credit attributable to a specific unit should be distributed only to that unit – Common credit to be distributed proportionately based on turnover (Ref: Rule 7 of CCR)
- → Rule 10 A introduced to facilitate transfer of unutilised SAD credit at the end of a quarter to other units of the same manufacturer
- → P-AND-OR-A box closed Interest only on CENVAT Credit wrongly taken and utilised – Penalty remains for even wrong taking. (Refer Rule 14 of CCR)

CENVAT CREDIT

- ♦ Positive list to give way to negative list a paradigm shift
- ♦ Rate raised to 12 % with effect from 01.04.2012 -Notification 8/2009, prescribing 10 % - rescinded. (Ref: Notification 2/2012)
- Optional 5 % payment on exempted services under Rule 6 of CCR, raised to 6 %
- Exemption to transport of goods by rails by railways extended up to July 2012 (Notifications 7-9/2012)

Amendments in ST Rules, 1994 (Notification 3/2012)

- ↑ Time limit for raising invoices raised to 30 days (Rule 4A amended)
- ♦ No blanket immunity to professionals from POT
- ♦ All Service providers being individuals / partnership firms, having turnover of less than Rs. 50 lakhs can pay service tax on realization basis
- Self adjustment of excess paid ST relaxed. Limit of Rs. 2 lakhs removed. Rule 6(4B) substituted.

Amendments in POT Rules.

- ♦ Minor excess amounts received upto Rs.1000 ST not payable on such excess payments on receipt
- ♦ For reverse charge, POT continues to be date of payment
- Dest judgement for difficult cases where date of invoice / date of payment not available
- ♦ SSI Exemption aligned with POT (Ref: Notification 5/2012)

Legislative Amendments...

- ♦ Normal demand period raised from one year to 18 months (Section 73 amended vide Clause 143 K of the Finance Bill)
- ♦ Periodical notices made simple
- → For renting of immovable property service penalty waiver if ST paid within 6 months of passage of Finance Bill (Refer clause 143L of the Finance Bill)

... Legislative Amendments

- ♦ Settlement Commission and Revisionary Authority for ST too. (Ref: Clause 143 M of the Finance Bill)
- ↑ Time limit for filing appeal before Commissioner
 Appeals reduced to 2 months, with delay condonation
 for one month. (Ref: Clause 143 N of the Finance Bill)
- ↑ Time limit for filing appeal before Tribunal, for department enhanced from 3 to 4 months (Ref: clause 1430 of the Finance Bill)
- Mens rea required for prosecution (Ref: Clause 143 Q of the Finance Bill).

Retrospective Amendments

- ♦ ST exemption for effluent treatment by associations of dyeing units – given retrospective effect from 16.06.2005 (Ref: Clause 145 of the Finance Bill)
- ♦ Protection under Rule 6 for services provided to SEZ units / developers, given retrospective effect from 10.02.2006 (Ref: Clause 144 of the Finance Bill)
- Maintenance / repair of roads, retrospectively exempted from 16.06.2005 (Ref: Clause 143 W of the Finance Bill)
- → Maintenance / repair of non commercial buildings retrospectively exempted from 16.06.2005.

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