

REPORTABLE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO.786 OF 2010
(Arising out of S.L.P.(C) No.26482/2008)

C.I.T., Mumbai ...Appellant(s)

Versus

M/s. Emptee Poly-Yarn Pvt. Ltd. ...Respondent(s)

With Civil Appeals Nos. 787 to 792 of 2010
(Arising out of S.L.P.(C) Nos.4186, 10269, 21390, 2102,
1490 and 1582 of 2009)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

Heard learned counsel on both sides.

The short question which arises for determination in this batch of Civil Appeals is: Whether twisting and texturising of partially oriented yarn ('POY' for short) amounts to 'manufacture' in terms of Section 80IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961?

The lead matter in this batch of Civil Appeals is C.I.T., Mumbai Vs. M/s. Emptee Poly-Yarn Pvt. Ltd. (Civil Appeal arising out of S.L.P.(C) No.26482/2008), in which the relevant Assessment Year is 1996-97.

Repeatedly this Court has recommended to the Department, be it under Excise Act, Customs Act or the Income Tax Act, to examine the process applicable to the product in question and not to go only by dictionary meanings. This recommendation is not being followed over the years. Even when the assessee gives an opinion on a given process, the Department does not submit any counter opinion wherever such counter opinion is possible. Prima facie, however, in this case, we do not see possibility of any counter opinion to the opinion given by the Mumbai University, vide letter dated 10th July, 1999.

With the above preface, we are required to examine the above question as to whether twisting and texturising of POY amounts to 'manufacture'. At the outset, we wish to clarify that our judgment should not be understood to mean that per se twisting and texturising would constitute 'manufacture' in every case. In each case, one has to examine the process undertaken by the assessee. Having examined the process in the light of the opinion given by the expert, which has not been controverted, we find that POY is a semi-finished yarn not capable of being put in warp or weft, it can only be used for making a texturized yarn, which, in turn, can be used in the manufacture of fabric. In other words, POY cannot be used directly to manufacture fabric. According to the expert, crimps, bulkiness etc. are introduced by a process, called as thermo mechanical process, into POY which converts POY into a texturized yarn. If one examines this thermo mechanical process in detail, it becomes clear that texturising and twisting of yarn constitutes 'manufacture' in the context of conversion of POY into texturized yarn. At this stage, we may also reproduce, hereinbelow, para 10 of our judgment in the case of C.I.T. Vs. M/s. Oracle Software India Ltd., reported in 2010 (1) SCALE 425.

"The term "manufacture" implies a change, but, every change is not a manufacture, despite the fact that every change in an article is the result of a treatment of labour and manipulation. However, this test of manufacture needs to be seen in the context of the above process. If an operation/process renders a commodity or article fit for use for which it is otherwise not fit, the operation/process falls within the meaning of the word "manufacture".

Applying the above test to the facts of this case, it is clear that POY simpliciter is not fit for being used in the manufacture of a fabric. It becomes usable only after it undergoes the operation/process which is called as thermo mechanical process which converts POY into texturised yarn, which, in turn, is used for the manufacture of fabric. One more point needs to be mentioned. Under the Income Tax Act, as amended in 2009, the test given by this Court in M/s. Oracle Software's case (supra) has been recognised when the definition of the word 'manufacture' is made explicit by Finance Act No.2/2009 which states that 'manufacture' shall, inter alia, mean a change in bringing into existence of a new and distinct object or article or thing with a different chemical composition or integral structure. Applying this definition to the facts of the present case, it may be mentioned that the above thermo mechanical process also brings about a structural change in the yarn itself, which is one of the important tests to be seen while judging whether the process is manufacture or not. The structure, the character, the use and the name of the product are indicia to be taken into account while deciding the question whether the process is a manufacture or not.

Before concluding, we may point out that the learned counsel appearing for the Department cited before us a judgment of a Division Bench of this Court in the case of Commissioner of Central Excise, Mumbai-V vs. Swastik Rayon Processors, reported in 2007 (209) E.L.T.163 (S.C.), in which it has been held that twisting of cellulosic filament yarn with a blended yarn comprising of polyester and viscose will not amount to manufacture under Section 2(F) of the Central Excise Act. In our view, the said judgment has no application to the facts and circumstances of this case. As stated above, POY is a semi-finished product. It is a raw material/input. That raw material or input gets converted into a texturised yarn by reason of the thermo mechanical process. POY is unfit for manufacture of fabric. POY, as stated above, means partially oriented yarn whereas a cellulosic filament yarn is a final product in the sense that it can be used directly for manufacture of fabric. If this definition is kept in mind, the judgment in the case of Swastik Rayon Processors's case (supra) will not apply to the facts of the present case.

We once again repeat the caution which we have mentioned hereinabove. Our judgment in the present case is to be confined to the facts of the present case. We are not saying that texturising or twisting per se in every matter amounts to manufacture. It is the thermo mechanical process embedded in twisting and texturising when applied to a partially oriented yarn which makes the...process a manufacture. In the circumstances, the judgment in the Swastik Rayon Processors's case (supra) will not apply.

Applying the above test to the facts of the present case, we find no infirmity in the impugned judgments of the High Court. Accordingly, the Civil Appeals filed by the Department are dismissed with no order as to costs.

.....J.
(S.H. KAPADIA)

.....J.
(H.L. DATTU)
New Delhi,
January 20, 2010.

ITEM NO.2 COURT NO.2 SECTION IIIA

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s).26482/2008

(From the judgement and order dated 27/02/2008 in ITA No. 1393/2000
of the HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY)

C.I.T..MUMBAI Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

M/S.EMPTEE POLY-YARN PVT.LTD. Respondent(s)
(With appln(s) for c/delay in filing SLP and bringing on record
additional documents and exemption from filing legible copies of
dim annexures)(for final disposal)

S.L.P.(C) Nos.4186, 10269, 21390, 2102, 1490 and 1582 of 2009
(With appln(s) for c/delay in filing SLP and office report)
(fopr final disposal)

Date: 20/01/2010 This Petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.H. KAPADIA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE H.L. DATTU

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Arijit Prasad, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Kaushik, Adv.
Mr. B.V. Balaram Das,Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. V. Lakshmi Kumaran, Adv.
Mr. Alok Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Ankur, Adv.
Mr. M.P.Devanath, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Delay condoned. Leave granted.
Civil Appeals are dismissed. No order as to costs.

(N. ANNAPURNA) (MADHU SAXENA)
COURT MASTER COURT MASTER

(Signed reportable order is placed on the file)