

ORDER SHEET
THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
Special Customs Reference Application Nos. 1581 to 1591 of 2023

Date

Order with signature of Judge

Fresh Case.

1. For hearing of main case.
2. For order on CMA No. 4164/23.

14.03.2024

Mr. Khalid Mehmood Rajpar, Advocate for Applicant.

On the last date of hearing the following order was passed:-

- “1) Granted.
2) Granted subject to all exceptions.
3 & 4) On perusal of the proposed questions, including Question No. 2, it appears that it has already been answered against the Applicant department in the case of *Muhamad Saleem Bikiya*¹ whereby it has been held that Anti-Dumping Duty is not a Customs Duty; therefore, how any short levy of the same can be made good in terms of Section 32 of the Customs Act, 1969. Counsel to come prepared as to why these Reference Applications have been preferred as once the controversy stands decided by this Court, it amounts to sheer wastage of Courts time and burdens the exchequer as well.

To come up on **14.03.2024**. Office shall place copy of this order in all connected files.”

Today Counsel for the Applicant is not in position to controvert the fact that insofar as Question No. 2, which is the moot question in these Reference Applications, already stands decided against the department, whereby, it has been held that Anti-Dumping Duty per se is not a Customs Duty; and therefore, any short recovery of the same cannot be made good under Section 32 of the Customs Act, 1969.

In view of such position, Question No.2 i.e. ***Whether by virtue of statutory amendments in Section 32 and 179 of the Customs Act, 1969, through Finance Act, 2012 and 2014, read with Section 202 of the Customs Act, 1969, the Customs Authorities are not empowered to recover short levied amount of Anti-dumping duty through the process of quasi-judicial proceedings?*** is answered against the

¹ Per *Munib Akhtar J* in *Muhammad Saleem Bikiya & Others vs. Pakistan & Another* reported as 2018 PTD 2026.

Applicant and in favour of the Respondents and as a consequence thereof remaining questions are not required to be answered. All these Reference Applications are dismissed in Limine along with pending applications.

Let copy of this order be sent to Customs Appellate Tribunal, Karachi, in terms of sub-section (5) of Section 196 of Customs Act, 1969. Office to place copy of this order in the connected Reference Applications as above.

J U D G E

J U D G E

Ayaz