

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXES, ASSAM :: KAR BHAWAN
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6

CIRCULAR NO. 37/2019-GST

Dated Dispur the 30th January, 2019.

Subject : Applicability of GST on Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) - reg.

No. CT/GST-15/2017/288. — Certain representations have been received seeking clarification as regards applicability of GST on Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

2. The matter has been examined. ADB Act, 1966 provides that notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law, the Bank, its assets, properties, income and its operations and transactions shall be exempt from all the taxation and from all customs duties. The Bank shall also be exempt from any obligation for payment, withholding or collection of any tax or duty [Section 5 (1) of the ADB Act, 1966 read with Article 56 (1) of the schedule thereto refers]. DEA has already conveyed vide letter No. 1/28/2002-ADB dated 22-01-2004 addressed to ADB that taxable services provided by ADB are exempted from service tax.
- 2.1 Similarly, IFC Act, 1958 also provides that notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law, the Corporation, its assets, properties, income and its operations and transactions authorised by the Agreement, shall be immune from all taxation and from all customs duties. The Corporation shall also be immune from liability for the collection or payment of any tax or duty [Section 3 (1) of IFC Act, 1958 read with Article VI, Section 9 (a) of the Schedule thereto refers].
3. CESTAT Mumbai vide final order dated 17-10-2016 in the case of M/s. Coastal Gujarat Power Ltd. has held that when the enactments that honour international agreements specifically immunize the operations of the service provider from taxability, a law contrary to that in the form of Section 66A of Finance Act, 1994 will not prevail. With the provider being not only immune from taxation but also absolved of any obligation to collect and deposit any tax, there is no scope for subjecting the recipient to tax. There is no need for a separate exemption and existing laws enacted by the sovereign legislature of the Union suffice for the purpose of giving effect to Agreements.
4. Accordingly, it is clarified that the services provided by IFC and ADB are exempt from GST in terms of provisions of IFC Act, 1958 and ADB Act. The exemption will be available only to the services provided by ADB and IFC and not to any entity appointed by or working on behalf of ADB or IFC.

5. This Circular is clarificatory in nature and not meant for any interpretation of provisions of the Act and rules.
6. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of the above instructions may be brought to the notice of the Commissioner at an early date.
7. This Circular shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from the 1st January, 2019.


Sd/- Anurag Goel, IAS.,
Commissioner of State tax, Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati

Memo No. CT/GST-15/2017/288-A

Dated Dispur the 30th January, 2019.

Copy to :

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for favour of kind information.
2. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance (Taxation) Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for favour of kind information.
3. The Commissioner of Central GST, Guwahati / Dibrugarh for information.
4. The Special Commissioner of State tax / Additional Commissioner of State tax (All) / Joint Commissioner of State tax (All) for information.
5. The Deputy Commissioner of State tax (All) / Assistant Commissioner of State tax (All) / Superintendent of State tax (All) / Inspector of State tax (All) for information and necessary action.
6. The Information Technology Officer, Office of the Commissioner of State tax, Assam for uploading it on the website of the Commissionerate for information of all concerned.


Commissioner of State tax, Assam,
Dispur, Guwahati