

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAX**  
**CUM COMMISSIONER OF TAXES, ASSAM**  
**KAR BHAWAN :: DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

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**CIRCULAR NO. 156/2024-GST**

Dated Dispur the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

**Subject: Clarification on time limit under Section 16(4) of Assam GST Act, 2017 in respect of RCM supplies received from unregistered persons – reg.**

**No. CT/GST-15/2017/1002.**— Representations have been received from trade and industry seeking clarity on the applicability of time limit specified under section 16(4) of Assam Goods & Services Tax Act, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the “Assam GST Act”) for the purpose of availment of input tax credit (ITC) by the recipient on the tax paid by him under reverse charge mechanism (RCM) in respect of supplies received from unregistered persons. It has been represented that in some cases, where tax is payable on reverse charge basis by the recipient, such as, where an activity is performed by the overseas related person for the entity located in India and no consideration is involved, such an activity may not be considered as supply of services by the concerned recipient in India and accordingly, no invoice is issued as well as no tax is paid by the said recipient under RCM in respect of the same. However, later on, either on their own on the basis of some clarification issued by the department or on the basis of some court judgement or on being pointed out by the tax authorities during scrutiny or audit or otherwise, the said recipient issues the invoice and pays the tax under RCM, along with interest, and claims input tax credit on such tax paid.

- 1.2** It has been represented that some of the field formations are taking the view that in such cases, the relevant year of the invoice for the purpose of section 16(4) of Assam GST Act is the year in which the said supply was received and accordingly, the time limit for availment of ITC under section 16(4) of Assam GST Act is only upto the September/ November of the following financial year, i.e. the financial year following the financial year in which the said services were received. On the other hand, industry has represented that as the invoice in respect of such supplies received from unregistered supplier, where tax has to be paid by the recipient on RCM basis, is to be issued by the recipient as per section 31(3)(f) of Assam GST Act, the relevant year of invoice for the purpose of section 16(4) of Assam GST Act is the financial year in which such invoice has been issued and accordingly, ITC should be available on the said invoice under section 16(4) of Assam GST Act till the September/ November of the financial year following the financial year in which such invoice has been issued. Request has been made to issue clarification in the matter to avoid litigation.
- 2.** The matter has been examined. In order to ensure uniformity in the implementation of the provisions of the law across the field formations, the Commissioner, in exercise of its powers conferred under section 168 of the Assam GST Act, hereby clarifies the issue as follows.



- 2.1 As per section 16(2)(a) of Assam GST Act, no registered person shall be entitled to the credit of any input tax in respect of any supply of goods or services or both to him unless he is in possession of a tax invoice or debit note issued by a supplier registered under this Act, or such other tax paying documents as may be prescribed.
- 2.2 Rule 36(1)(b) of Assam Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as the Assam GST Rules) prescribes that input tax credit shall be availed by a registered person *inter alia* on the basis of an invoice issued in accordance with the provisions of clause (f) of sub-section (3) of section 31 of Assam GST Act, subject to the payment of tax.
- 2.3 Further, clause (f) of sub-section (3) of section 31 of Assam GST Act provides that a registered person, who is liable to pay tax under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) of section 9, shall issue an invoice in respect of goods or services or both received by him from the supplier who is not registered on the date of receipt of goods or services or both. Accordingly, where the supplier is unregistered and recipient is registered, and the recipient is liable to pay tax on the said supply on RCM basis, the recipient is required to issue invoice as per section 31(3)(f) of Assam GST Act and pay the tax in cash on the same under RCM.
- 2.4 Section 16(4) of Assam GST Act, as amended *vide* the Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2022, deals with time limit to avail ITC, and is reproduced below-

*“A registered person shall not be entitled to take input tax credit in respect of any invoice or debit note for supply of goods or services or both after **the thirtieth day of November following the end of financial year to which such invoice or debit note pertains or furnishing of the relevant annual return, whichever is earlier.**”*

Section 16(4) of Assam GST Act, before the said amendment *vide* the Assam Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2022, provided as follows:

*“A registered person shall not be entitled to take input tax credit in respect of any invoice or debit note for supply of goods or services or both after **the due date of furnishing of the return under section 39 for the month of September following the end of financial year to which such invoice or debit note pertains or furnishing of the relevant annual return, whichever is earlier.**”*

- 2.5 It can be seen that section 16(4) of Assam GST Act links the time limit for ITC availment with the financial year to which the invoice or debit note pertains. As discussed in Para 2.3 above, in case of supplies where the supplier is unregistered and recipient is registered and the tax has to be paid by the recipient on RCM basis, the recipient is required to issue invoice in terms of the provisions of section 31(3)(f) of Assam GST Act and pay the tax on the same in cash under RCM. Further, as discussed in Para 2.1 above, ITC cannot be availed by a registered person in respect of any supply of goods or services or both received by him, as per the provisions of section 16(2)(a) of Assam GST Act, unless he is in possession of a tax invoice or debit note or such other tax paying documents as may be prescribed.



- 2.6 A combined reading of the above provisions leads to a conclusion that as ITC can be availed by the recipient only on the basis of invoice or debit note or other duty paying document, and as in case of RCM supplies received by the recipient from unregistered supplier, invoice has to be issued by the recipient himself, the relevant financial year, to which invoice pertains, for the purpose of time limit for availment of ITC under section 16(4) of Assam GST Act in such cases shall be the financial year of issuance of such invoice only. In cases, where the recipient issues the said invoice after the time of supply of the said supply and pays tax accordingly, he will be required to pay interest on such delayed payment of tax.
- 2.7 Accordingly, it is clarified that in cases of supplies received from unregistered suppliers, where tax has to be paid by the recipient under reverse charge mechanism (RCM) and where invoice is to be issued by the recipient of the supplies in accordance with section 31(3)(f) of Assam GST Act, the relevant financial year for calculation of time limit for availment of input tax credit under the provisions of section 16(4) of Assam GST Act will be the financial year in which the invoice has been issued by the recipient under section 31(3)(f) of Assam GST Act, subject to payment of tax on the said supply by the recipient and fulfilment of other conditions and restrictions of section 16 and 17 of Assam GST Act. In case, the recipient issues the invoice after the time of supply of the said supply and pays tax accordingly, he will be required to pay interest on such delayed payment of tax. Further, in cases of such delayed issuance of invoice by the recipient, he may also be liable to penal action under the provisions of Section 122 of Assam GST Act.
3. The above may be brought to the notice of all concerned.
4. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of the above instructions may be brought to the notice of the Commissioner at an early date.

Sd/=

( Pallav Gopal Jha, IAS )

Principal Commissioner of State tax, Assam,  
Dispur, Guwahati



Memo No. CT/GST-15/2017/1002-A

Dated Dispur the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

Copy to :

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam, Finance (Taxation) Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6 for favour of kind information.
2. The Commissioner of Central GST, Guwahati / Dibrugarh for information.
3. The Special Commissioner of State Tax (All) / Additional Commissioner of State Tax (All)/ Joint Commissioner of State Tax (All) / Deputy Commissioner of State Tax (All) / Assistant Commissioner of State Tax (All) / Superintendent of State Tax (All) for information and necessary action.
4. 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.

*Paranav*  
8.7.24.

Principal Commissioner of State tax, Assam,  
Dispur, Guwahati