

Customs cases: FBR legal wing to process cases of time limit extension

The Board-in-Council of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) took a policy decision that cases of time limit extension for adjudication of customs cases under section 179(4) of the Customs Act, 1969 received from Customs Wing shall be processed by the Legal Wing, FBR. Sources said that the FBR's Board-in-Council legally clarified that such cases would be processed by the Legal Wing, FBR and not FBR Customs Wing regarding time limit extension under section 179(4) of the Customs Act, 1969. The policy decision has been communicated to the FBR Customs Wing as well as FBR Legal Wing.

The Board-in-Council was informed that FBR vide notification No. 6(96)S(BIC)/2014-15, dated 11.3.2016, had delegated the powers for extension in time limit for adjudication of cases under subsection 2 & 4 of section 179 of the Customs Act, 1969 to Member (Legal), FBR. On the said date, a few cases were pending with Customs Wing FBR for granting extension in time limit and the period of adjudication had expired in those cases. After issuance of the said notification, Customs Wing FBR and Collector, Collectorate of Customs (Adjudication), Islamabad, forwarded the said cases to the Legal Wing FBR for granting extension in terms of board's above referred notification.

Since the issue of disposal of legacy cases, which were pending for grant of extension, was not addressed in the above said notification, Board-in-Council was requested for a specific clarification as to who shall dispose of the legacy cases which were pending when the powers under subsection 2 & 4 of section 179 of Customs Act, 1969 were transferred from Customs wing to Legal wing on 11.3.2016.

After thorough discussion, the Board-in-Council unanimously decided that cases of time limit extension under section 179(4) of the Customs Act, 1969 received from Customs Wing shall be processed by the Legal Wing, FBR.

The 1st Board-in-Council meeting for the current financial year was held at FBR House, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Tariq Mahmood Pasha, Secretary Revenue Division/ Chairman, FBR and attended by the participants including members.

Tasneem Rehman, Member (Admn), welcomed the new secretary Revenue Division/ chairman FBR, on behalf of members of the Board-in-Council. She assured the chairman of complete support and reiterated that the members would work as a cohesive team under his leadership and leave no stone unturned to achieve the assigned targets of revenue collection for the current financial year.

Speaking on the occasion, Nasir Masroor Ahmad, Member (HRM), Khawaja Tanveer Ahmad, Member (IR Operations), Rehmatullah Khan Wazir, Member (TPA), Nausheen Javaid Amjad, Member (FATE), Khawaja Adnan Zahir, Member (IT), Muhammad Zahid Member (Customs) and Dr Muhammad Iqbal, Member (IR Policy), also congratulated the chairman. While highlighting various strengths of the chairman, the speakers hailed the competence and professionalism of the chairman while he was posted as secretary Finance, Auqaf & Religious Affairs, government of Punjab and Special Assistant to the federal finance minister, it was reiterated that his presence as head of Federal Board of Revenue would benefit both the service groups.

The chairman thanked the members for their welcoming remarks and resolved that they would work as a team in order to synergize the efforts for achieving the assigned targets. Speaking on the occasion he reiterated that each member was the team leader of his/her wing and expected that under the supervision of the respective members, all wings would achieve the best results during the current year. The FBR chairman also assured the members of his complete confidence in the entire team and resolved to extend his full support whenever it was required.

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