Circular No. 387/20/98-CX dated 1/5/1998

Subject: Extension of the facility of the STP/EHTP to facilitate working from outside the park and allowing equipments to be taken out of the bonding areas of the STP/EHTP.

Under Notification No. 1/95-CE, dated 4.1.95 and Notification No. 126/94-CE, dated 2.9.94 100% Export Oriented Units and Units located in EHTP/STP/FTZs are permitted to remove the goods manufactured, produced, processed and packaged in the unit for the purpose of repair, reprocessing etc. without payment of duty after seeking necessary permission from the jurisdictional Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise.

2. It has been represented by the Units located in the EHTP/STP that this permission from the Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise takes two or three weeks, consequent to which, the working of the units gets severely hampered.

3. The matter has been examined in the Board. I am directed to say that all such cases, where the permission of Assistant Commissioner of Central Excise is required, permission should be granted within 24 hours .of the receipt of the application and delay should be avoided.

4. The Commissioner of Central Excise should personally monitor cases of unusual delay as well as harassment to the trade and stringent action should be taken against erring officials. A report in this regard may be sent to the Board by 15th of June 1998, indicating the cases where delays have taken place, so that the matter may be reviewed further.

Sd/-(P.K. Sinha) Under Secretary to the Government of India