

**ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL EXCISE GAZETTED
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GS/2017/ADMN/

Dated 25.08.2017

To

The Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Central Excise & Customs,
Thiruvananthapuram Zone.

Sir,

Sub: Reorganisation of Customs Formations in Kerala - Reg

A kind attention is invited to Notification No. 82/2017 Customs (NT) dated 24.08.2017 through which the existing Custom House, Cochin and Customs Commissionerate (Cochin) has been merged and then bifurcated into North Kerala Customs Commissionerate and South Kerala Customs Commissionerate.

2. As you are aware, the territorial jurisdictions of Custom House, Cochin was limited to the area falling within the Greater Cochin Development Authority, with the Officers of Custom House, Cochin attending to all Customs related work within their territorial jurisdiction. Customs work at all the Airports, Minor Ports and ICDs outside the area of Greater Cochin Development Authority was being attended to by the Officers of Central Excise, Kerala Zone. With respect to anti-smuggling and land customs work, the creation of the Commissionerate of Customs (Preventive), Cochin too did not intrude on the territorial jurisdictions that were in place, with the R&I Wing of this Commissionerate manned by Officers of Customs House, Cochin being restricted to the area of Greater Cochin Development Authority and the rest of Kerala being manned by the Officers of Central Excise, Kerala Zone.

3. It may also be recalled that at the time of formation of Customs Commissionerate (Preventive) Cochin, a litigation had ensued with regard to the sharing of posts in the Commissionerate and the Board had given an under taking before the Central Administrative Tribunal (Ernakulam Bench) in the case OA 712/2002 that the officers from Customs Cadres would be posted only within the jurisdiction of GCDA.

4. In view of the recasting of jurisdictions consequent to the introduction of GST with a view to delink all Customs related work from GST formations and the specific description of jurisdiction highlighting the erstwhile jurisdiction of Customs House Cochin, we believe that the intention is that there will be no encroachment of Officers of Customs House, Cochin into the territorial areas that were traditionally manned by the Officers of Central Excise. It is hence requested that while posting Group B officers to newly formed Customs Commissionerates, the historical demarcation of jurisdiction, as specified in the current notification, may be adhered to, among the Central Excise and Customs cadres, and the undertaking given by the Board in OA No. 712/2002 be honoured.

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully

ARUN ZACHARIAH.P
GENERAL SECRETARY