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Sr. No.	Date	Orders
		<p data-bbox="512 241 710 275">% 20.01.2006</p> <p data-bbox="512 324 1241 358">Present : Mr. R.D. Jolly, Adv. for the appellant.</p> <p data-bbox="512 459 1252 492"><u>ITA Nos.468-471/2005 &amp; ITA Nos.394/05, 464/05.</u></p> <p data-bbox="512 548 1592 1478">We had, by our order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005, directed the appellants to place on record evidence to demonstrate that references have been made to the Committee on Disputes within the period stipulated for the purpose by the Supreme Court in <u>Oil and Natural Gas Commission Vs. Collector Central Excise</u>, (1994) 116 CTR (SC) 643. For reasons, which we have separately recorded, we had held that appeals, in which no reference was made to the Committee on Disputes within the period stipulated in terms of the above judgment were liable to be dismissed on account of failure of an essential legal requirement. Since the appellants claimed to have made references, they were directed to furnish evidence about the same to this Court in terms of our order dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005 which is as under:</p> <p data-bbox="718 1523 1556 2105">"In the light of what we have stated in our respective opinions, appeals in which no reference has been made to the Committee on Disputes within the period stipulated for the purpose are liable to be dismissed. There is, however, a difference of opinion as to what should happen in cases in which such a reference has been made. To the extent the conflict needs to be resolved a reference to a third Judge would become necessary but before any such reference is made we need to verify whether any reference has at all been made in the present cases and, if so, when. We accordingly direct the appellants to place on record evidence about the making of the references in these cases within a period of four weeks.</p>



Sr. No.	Date	Orders
		<p style="text-align: right;">(11)</p> <p>Post for further orders on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2005.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Sd/ T.S. THAKUR, J.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-Sd/ BADAR DURREZ AHMED,</p> <p>September 22, 2005"</p> <p>Mr. Jolly has filed an affidavit stating that although references have been made to the Committee on Disputes, yet all such references were beyond the period of one month stipulated for the purpose. Learned counsel all the same, argued that the delay in making of the references should not itself result in dismissal of the appeals. He urged that this Court had the power to extend the period prescribed for making the references. We do not think so. The period of one month for making a reference has been stipulated by the Supreme Court in the decision referred to earlier. The decision does not go the length of saying that the High Courts can extend the period for making a reference in appropriate cases. This Court would not, therefore, be justified in ignoring the time frame prescribed by a binding decision of the Apex Court. In the circumstances, therefore, we have no option but to dismiss these appeals which we hereby do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">T.S. THAKUR, J.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Badar Durrez Ahmed</i> BADAR DURREZ AHMED, J.</p> <p>JANUARY 20, 2006</p>