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W.P.No.34297 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATE: 22.12.2022

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR

W.P.No.34297 of 2022

&

W.M.P.No.33753 of 2022

in

W.P.No.34297 of 2022

Mr.Hemant Shantill Jain

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax
Central Circle 1(1) Chennai
Room No.320, 3rd Floor, Investigation Building
No.46 (Old No.108) MG Road
Nungambakkam
Chennai – 600 034

2. Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) – 18
No.46 (Old No.108)
MG Road, Nungambakkam
Chennai – 600 034

... Respondents

Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking for a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records on the file of the 1st Respondent in PAN AGQPJ8953R and quash the impugned order in ITBA/COM/F/17/2022-23/1047942811(1) dated 12.12.2022 for the Assessment Year 2019-20 as illegal, arbitrary, against the principles of natural justice and devoid of merits and consequentially direct the 1st respondent to grant stay of recovery of demand for the Assessment Year 2019-20 pending disposal of the appeal preferred by the Petitioner before the 2nd Respondent.



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For Petitioner : Ms.Vandana Vyas
along with Ms.A.Niveditha

For Respondents : Mr.A.P.Srinivas
Senior Standing Counsel (Income Tax)
and Ms.S.Premalatha
Junior Standing Counsel (Income Tax)

ORDER

This order will now dispose of the captioned writ petition and captioned 'Writ Miscellaneous Petition'['WMP' for the sake of brevity].

2. Ms.Vandana Vyas, learned counsel on record for writ petitioner is before this Court. Learned counsel submitted that there was a search operation qua the writ petitioner under Section 132 of the 'Income Tax Act, 1961' ('IT Act' for the sake of brevity); that on the basis of seized material, a notice under Section 153C of IT Act was issued; that this was followed by a notice dated 14.12.2021 under Section 143(2) and a notice dated 20.01.2022 under Section 142(1); that all this culminated in an order dated 28.03.2022 made by the first respondent *inter alia* under Section 143(3) read with Section 153 of IT Act [hereinafter 'said order of Assessing Officer' for the sake of convenience and clarity]; that vide the said order of Assessing Officer, the Assessing Officer had come



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to the conclusion that there is unaccounted capital drawings and unexplained interest credit both under Section 56 of IT Act; that pursuant to such assessment a demand of Rs.89,84,642/- was raised; that the said order of Assessing Officer was carried in appeal by the writ petitioner by way of an appeal dated 26.04.2022 to the second respondent; that it is to be noted that the second respondent is the Appellate Authority; that this Court is informed that the appeal is under Section 246A of IT Act; that pending appeal, writ petitioner moved the first respondent (Assessing Officer) under Section 220(6) of IT Act with an interim prayer; that the first respondent in and by a terse 'order dated 12.12.2022 bearing reference ITBA/COM/F/17/2022-23/1047942811(1)' [hereinafter 'impugned order' for the sake of convenience and clarity] negatived the interim prayer; that captioned writ petition has been filed assailing the impugned order.

3. Considering the narrow compass on which the captioned main writ petition turns, this Court deemed it appropriate to take up the captioned main writ petition with the consent of counsel for writ petitioner and Mr.A.P.Srinivas, learned Senior Standing Counsel (Income Tax) along with Ms.S.Premalatha, learned Junior Standing Counsel (Income Tax) who accepted notice for both the respondents.



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4. As already alluded to supra, the impugned order of the first

respondent is terse and a scanned reproduction of the same is as follows:

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
ACIT, CENTRAL CIR 1(1) CHENNAI

To HEMANT SHANTILAL JAIN Flat No. G-1602, KLP Apartments, Sankar's Road, Paduram Chennai-600012, Tamil Nadu India			
PAIR AGQPJ8953R	Assessment Year 2018-19	Dated 12/12/2022	DIN & Letter No. ITRA/COMF117/2022-23/1047943204117

Sir Madam Sirs,
Subject: Online service of Orders - Letter

Sub: I.T. Assessment – A.Y 2018-19 – your own case
-AGQPJ8953R - request for Stay of Demand - reg.

Ref: Your application for stay of demand filed on
27-05-2022

Assessee vide letter dated 27-06-2022 requested for stay of demand.

However, stay of demand is governed by the instruction No 1814 dated 2.12.1993 and modified by OMs dated 29.02.2018 and 31.07.2017. Your case is not covered under these instructions referred to above and also mere filing of appeal is not a ground for stay of recovery.

Therefore, as per the existing guidelines and law, it is not possible to treat you not as assessee in default. Hence, you are directed to pay the outstanding demand as intimated to you vide demand notice enclosed with the assessment order.

KOLAN SELVARAJ
ACIT, CENTRAL CIR 1(1) CHENNAI

Note: It digitally signed by digital signed by the assessee, to be used as a document.
ROOM NO. 40, 1ST FLOOR, INVESTIGATION BUILDING, INVESTIGATION OFFICE, NO. 45, OLD NO. 102, SARATHI ROAD,
CHENNAI, Tamil Nadu, INDIA
Email: CHENNAIACIT1@INCOMETAX.GOV.IN, Office Phone: 34502255

Note: The contents of this letter are subject to change without notice. Please refer to the latest version of the letter.

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5. The impugned order has been made on one basis and that lone basis is that the writ petitioner's case is not covered under 'Instruction No.1914 dated 02.12.1993 as modified by two Office Memoranda dated 29.02.2016 and 31.07.2017' [hereinafter collectively 'said instruction' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. There is no dispute or disagreement as between the petitioner's counsel and the learned Revenue counsel that this is incorrect. This is evident and obvious from the first and second sentences in the first paragraph of impugned order. The first sentence says that stay of demand is governed by said instruction and second sentence says that writ petitioner is not covered by said instruction.

6. As there is no dispute or disagreement that the writ petitioner's case i.e., writ petitioner's plea that interim order is covered by said instruction read with Section 220(6) of IT Act and as the only ground on which the prayer has been negated is that the writ petitioner is not covered by said instruction, this Court deems it appropriate to interfere qua the impugned order.



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7. In the light of the narrative thus far, the following order is

passed:

a) the impugned order i.e., order dated 12.12.2022 bearing reference ITBA/COM/F/17/2022-23/1047942811(1) made by the first respondent is set aside. The impugned order is set aside on the sole ground that it has proceeded on the lone erroneous basis that said instruction (Instruction No.1914 dated 02.12.1993 as modified by two office memoranda dated 29.02.2016 and 31.07.2017) does not apply to the writ petitioner;

b) The petition of the writ petitioner seeking interim order is remitted back to the first respondent for consideration on its own merits and in accordance with law *inter alia* by applying said instruction;

c) The above exercise shall be completed by the first respondent as expeditiously as his business would permit and in any event, within three weeks from today i.e., on or before 12.01.2023;



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d) Though obvious it is made clear that the writ petitioner's petition styled 'petition to keep the demand of tax in abeyance' before the first respondent now gets revived and the same will stand over for consideration by the first respondent as per the aforementioned directive within aforementioned time line.

(e) Though obvious, it is made clear that this Court has not expressed any view or opinion on the merits of the matter and the facts have been captured for limited purpose of appreciating this order.

Captioned writ petition disposed of with the aforementioned directives. Consequently, captioned WMP is disposed of as closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

22.12.2022
(1/2)

Index: yes/no
gpa



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M.SUNDAR, J.,

gpa

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(1/2)