

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

FAO No. 2343 of 2004

Date of decision: 22nd May, 2023

M/s Inderjit Mehta

Appellant

Versus

Chief Engineer and others

Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AVNEESH JHINGAN

Present: Mr. Surinder Garg, Advocate for the appellant.
Mr. S. K. Sharma, Senior Panel Counsel for the respondents.

AVNEESH JHINGAN, J (Oral):

1. This appeal under Section 39 of the Arbitration Act, 1940 is filed against the judgment of Civil Judge (Senior Division), Bathinda.
2. Section 39 of the Punjab Courts Act, 1918 (for short, 'the Act') was substituted by Punjab Act No. 29 of 2006. The Section is reproduced below:

“Section 39

39. Appeals from Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division).-(1) Save as aforesaid, an appeal from a decree or order of a Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division), shall lie to the District Judge, irrespective of the value of the original suit.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), an appeal to the Court or the District Judge shall be heard by the District Judge or by an Additional District Judge.

(3) An Additional District Judge shall hear only such appeals, as the High Court may, be general or special order direct, or as the District Judge of the District may entrust to him.

(4) All appeals from a decree or order of a Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) pending in the High Court, irrespective of the value of the original suit, shall be transferred to the District Judge exercising ordinary territorial jurisdiction.

(5) The High Court may, by notification, direct that appeals lying to the District Judge from all or any of the decrees or orders passed in any original suit by an Civil Judge (Senior Division) or Civil Judge (Junior Division), shall be preferred to such other Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division), as may be specified in the notification, and the appeals shall thereupon, be preferred accordingly, and the Court of such other Civil Judge (Senior Division) and Civil Judge (Junior Division) shall be deemed to be a District Court for the purpose of the appeals so preferred.”

3. As per amended Section 39 of the Act, an appeal from a decree or order of a Civil Judge, Senior Division/Junior Division shall lie to the District Judge, irrespective of the value of the original suit. Section 39(4) of the Act stipulates that appeal from the order or decree of the Civil Judge, Senior Division/Junior Division, pending in the High Court shall be transferred to District Judge having the territorial jurisdiction.

4. In view of Section 39(4) of the Act, this appeal is transferred to District Judge, Bathinda.

5. The appeal stands disposed of.

[AVNEESH JHINGAN]
JUDGE

22nd May, 2023

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1. Whether speaking/ reasoned	:	Yes / No
2. Whether reportable	:	Yes / No