



SAO- 6 and 7 of 2021 (O&M) 1

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

132

SAO No. 6 of 2021 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 24.07.2024
.....Appellant

Rekha Rani

Versus

Simran Preet and othersRespondents

SAO No. 7 of 2021 (O&M)

Leela DeviAppellant

Versus

Simran Preet and othersRespondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Rakesh Gupta, Advocate
for the appellant.Ms. Sonia S. Singh, Advocate
for the respondents.

ANIL KSHETARPAL, J.(ORAL)

1. With the consent of learned counsel representing the parties, two connected second appeals against the order shall stand disposed of by a common order.

2. In the present second appeal from order, the defendant assails the correctness of first Appellate Court's order passed while remitting the matter back to the trial Court for afresh decision.

3. On reading of the order, it is evident that the first Appellate Court has found that the impugned judgment passed by the trial Court suffers from certain errors. Only on this ground, the matter has been remitted back to the trial Court.

4. Learned counsel representing the respondent has vehemently submitted that the trial Court should be permitted to decide the suit afresh.

**SAO- 6 and 7 of 2021 (O&M) 2**

5. Heard the learned counsel representing the parties at length and with their able assistance perused the paperbook.

6. The scope and ambit of Order XLI Rule 23 and Rule 23A of Code of Civil Procedure (hereinafter referred to as 'CPC') have been explained in detail in the celebrated judgment passed by the Apex Court in **P.Purushottam Reddy and Another v. Pratap Steels Ltd. (2002) 2 SCC 686**, in the following manner:-

“10. The next question to be examined is the legality and propriety of the order of remand made by the High Court. Prior to the insertion of Rule 23A in Order 41 of the Code of Civil Procedure by CPC Amendment Act 1976, there were only two provisions contemplating remand by a court of appeal in Order 41 of CPC. Rule 23 applies when the trial court disposes of the entire suit by recording its findings on a preliminary issue without deciding other issues and the finding on preliminary issue is reversed in appeal. Rule 25 applies when the appellate court notices an omission on the part of the trial court to frame or try any issue or to determine any question of fact which in the opinion of the appellate court was essential to the right decision of the suit upon the merits. However, the remand contemplated by Rule 25 is a limited remand in as much as the subordinate court can try only such issues as are referred to it for trial and having done so the evidence recorded together with findings and reasons therefore of the trial court, are required to be returned to the appellate court. However, still it was a settled position of law before 1976 Amendment that the court, in an appropriate case could exercise its inherent jurisdiction under Section 151 of the CPC to order a remand if such a remand was considered pre-eminently necessary ex debito justitiae, though not covered by any specific provision of Order 11 of the CPC. In cases where additional evidence is required to be taken in the event of any one of the clause of Sub-rule (1) of Rule 27 being attracted such additional evidence oral or documentary, is allowed to be produced either before the appellate court itself or by directing any court subordinate to the appellate court to receive such evidence and send it to the appellate court. In 1976, Rule 23A has been inserted in Order 41 which provides for a remand by an appellate court hearing an appeal against a decree if (i) the trial court disposed of the case otherwise than on a preliminary point, and (ii) the decree is reversed in appeal and a retrial is considered necessary. On twin conditions being satisfied, the appellate court can exercise the same power of remand under Rule 23A as it is under Rule 23. After the amendment all the cases of wholesale remand are covered by Rule 23 and 23A. In view of the express provisions of these rules, the High Court



cannot have recourse to its inherent powers to make a remand because as held in Mahendra v. Sushila (AIR 1965 SC 365 at p.399), it is well settled that inherent powers can be availed of ex debito justitiae only in the absence of express provisions in the Code. It is only in exceptional cases where the court may now exercise the power of remand de hors the Rules 23 and 23A. To wit the superior court, if it finds that the judgment under appeal has not disposed of the case satisfactorily in the manner required by Order 20 Rule 3 or Order 11 Rule 31 of the CPC and hence it is no judgment in the eye of law, it may set aside the same and send the matter back for re-writing the judgment so as to protect valuable rights of the parties. An appellate court should be circumspect in ordering a remand when the case is not covered either by Rule 23 or Rule 23A or Rule 25 of the CPC. An unwarranted order of remand gives the litigation an undeserved lease of life and, therefore must be avoided.”

7. Under Rule 23 A of the CPC, the appellate Court can remit the matter back to the lower Court only if the judgment passed by the trial Court is set aside on merits and the re-trial is considered necessary. These two conditions are a *sine qua non* required to be fulfilled before passing an order remitting back the case to the lower Court. It is evident that the first Appellate Court has not concluded that the re-trial of the case is necessary.

8. Keeping in view the aforesaid discussion, the impugned order passed by the first Appellate Court is set aside only on this limited ground.

9. The appeals stand allowed, accordingly.

10. The first appeals are restored to its original number and the parties through their learned counsel are directed to appear before the First Appellate Court, on 21.08.2024.

11. All the pending miscellaneous applications, if any, are also disposed of.

24.07.2024
Rajeev (rvs)

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes
No