

(2022) 01 PAT CK 0113

In the Patna High Court

Case No : Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No. 1135 Of 2022

East India Udyog Limited

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Bihar

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 31-01-2022

Acts Referred:

Bihar Goods And Services Tax Act, 2017 — Section 73, 107, 107(6)(1)
Central Goods And Services Tax Act, 2017 — Section 73, 107, 107(6)(1), 140

Citation : ??

Hon'ble Judges : Sanjay Karol, CJ;S. Kumar, J

Bench : Division Bench

Advocate : Gautam Kumar Kejriwal, Vikash Kumar

Final Decision : Disposed Of

Judgement

Heard learned counsel for the parties.

Petitioner has prayed for the following relief(s):-

It is brought to our notice that vide impugned order dated 13.11.2021 passed by the Respondent No. 2 namely Additional Commissioner of State

Taxes(Appeal), Central Division, Patna in Appeal Case No. AD100921005512T, the appeal of the petitioner against the order dated 02.09.2021 passed

by the Respondent No. 3 namely Joint Commissioner of State Taxes, Patliputra Circle, Patna in GSTIN/ID-10AAACE6839Q1Z and Summary of

Order dated 02.09.2021 in Reference No. ZD1009210016522 has been rejected.

Learned counsel for the Revenue, states that he has no objection if the matter is remanded to the Assessing Authority for deciding the case afresh.

Also, the case shall be decided on merits. Also, during pendency of the case, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner.

Statement accepted and taken on record.

However, having heard learned counsel for the parties as also perused the record made available, we are of the considered view that this Court,

notwithstanding the statutory remedy, is not precluded from interfering where, ex facie, we form an opinion that the order is bad in law. This we say

so, for two reasons- (a) violation of principles of natural justice, i.e. Fair opportunity of hearing. No sufficient time was afforded to the petitioner to

represent his case; (b) order passed does not assign any reasons sufficient even decipherable from the record, as to how the officer could determine

the amount due and payable by the assessee. The order passed in violation of the principles of natural justice, entails civil consequences. As such, on

this short ground alone, we dispose of the present writ petition in the following mutually agreeable terms:

(a) We quash and set aside the impugned order dated 13.11.2021 passed by the Respondent No. 2, namely, Additional Commissioner of State Taxes

(Appeal), Central Division, Patna in Appeal Case No. AD100921005512T; order dated 02.09.2021 passed by the Respondent No. 3, namely, Joint

Commissioner of State Taxes, Patliputra Circle, Patna in GSTIN/ID-10AAACE6839Q1Z and Summary of Order dated 02.09.2021 in Reference No.

ZD1009210016522.

(b) We accept the statement of the petitioner that ten per cent of the total amount, being condition prerequisite for hearing of the appeal, already

stands deposited. If that were so, well and good. However, if the amount is not deposited for whatever reason(s), same shall be done before the next

date;

(c) Further the petitioner undertakes to additionally deposit ten per cent of the amount of the demand raised before the Assessing Officer. This shall

be done within four weeks.

(d) This deposit shall be without prejudice to the respective rights and contention of the parties and subject to the order passed by the Assessing

Officer. However, if it is ultimately found that the petitioner's deposit is in excess, the same shall be refunded within two months from the date of

passing of the order;

(e) We also direct for de-freezing/de-attaching of the bank account(s) of the writ-petitioner, if attached, in reference to the proceedings, subject

matter of present petition. This shall be done immediately.

(f) Petitioner undertakes to appear before the Assessing Authority on 28.02.2022 at 10:30 A.M., if possible through digital mode;

(g) The Assessing Authority shall decide the case on merits after complying with the principles of natural justice;

(h) We also find the authorities not to have adjudicated the matter on the attending facts and circumstances. All issues of fact and law ought to have been dealt with, even if the proceedings were to be ex-parte in nature;

(i) Opportunity of hearing shall be afforded to the parties to place on record all essential documents and materials, if so required and desired;

(j) During pendency of the assessment, no coercive steps shall be taken against the petitioner.

(k) The Assessing Authority shall pass a fresh order only after affording adequate opportunity to all concerned, including the writ petitioner;

(l) Petitioner through learned counsel undertakes to fully cooperate in such proceedings and not take unnecessary adjournment;

(m) The Assessing Authority shall decide the case on merits expeditiously, preferably within a period of two months from the date of appearance of the petitioner;

(n) The Assessing Authority shall pass a speaking order assigning reasons, copy whereof shall be supplied to the parties;

(o) Liberty reserved to the petitioner to challenge the order before this Court, if required and desired;

(p) Equally, liberty reserved to the parties to take recourse to such other remedies as are otherwise available in accordance with law;

(q) We are hopeful that as and when petitioner takes recourse to such remedies, before the appropriate forum, the same shall be dealt with, in accordance with law, with a reasonable dispatch;

(r) We have not expressed any opinion on merits and all issues are left open;

(s) If possible, proceedings during the time of current Pandemic [Covid-19] be conducted through digital mode;

The instant petition stands disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

Interlocutory Application(s), if any, also stands disposed of.

Learned counsel for the respondents undertakes to communicate the order to the

appropriate authority through electronic mode.