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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-21271-2024 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 29.08.2024

Surinder Singh Deswal

. . . . Petitioner

Vs.

Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax and others . . . . Respondents

****

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

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Present: Mr. Nikhil Goyal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Saurabh Kapoor, Sr. Standing Counsel and
Ms. Pridhi Sandhu, Jr. Standing Counsel for the respondents.

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SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA, J.(Oral)

1. Notice of motion.

2. Mr. Saurabh Kapoor, Sr. Standing Counsel accepts notice on behalf of respondents/Revenue and fairly states that the issue involved in the present petition stands covered by the judgment passed by this Court in ***CWP No.21509 of 2023 titled as Jasjit Singh vs. Union of India and others***, decided on 29.07.2024, wherein this Court held as under:

> *"**16**. We are in agreement with the view taken by the Coordinate Bench and hold that such circular or instructions by the Board could not have been issued to override statutory provisions or to make them otiose or obsolete. Legislative enactments having financial be followed strictly and mandatorily. By exercising the powers contained Sections 119 and 120 of the Act, 1961 as well as Section 144B (7 & 8), the authorities cannot be allowed to usurp the legal provisions to their own satisfaction and convenience causing hardship to the assessees. It also leaves confusion in the minds of the taxpayers instructions and supplementing the statutory provisions and*

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> ***17***. *In view of the aforesaid discussion, there is no occasion to distinguish or take a different view as suggested by the learned counsel for the revenue from what has already been held by the Coordinate Bench.*
>
> ***18.*** *Keeping in view the law laid down by the Coordinate Bench (supra), notices issued by the JAO under Section 148 of the Act, 1961 and the proceedings initiated thereafter without conducting the faceless assessment as envisaged under Section 144B of the Act, 1961, have been found to be contrary to the provisions of the Act, 1961 and accordingly notices dated 28.02.2023, 16.03.2023, 20.03.2024 and 30.03.2023 and order dated 30.03.2023, are set aside for want of jurisdiction.*
>
> ***19***. *The respondents-revenue would be, however, at liberty to follow the procedure as laid down under the Act, 1961 and proceed accordingly, if so advised.*
>
> ***20***. *All the writ petitions are allowed. The interim order passed by the Court shall stand merged with the present order."*

3. Keeping in view above, we ***allow*** this Writ Petition in the aforesaid terms. The observations and order passed above shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the present case. Accordingly, notice dated 16.02.2024 (Annexure P-2) and order dated 30.03.2024 (Annexure P-4) under Section 148A(b) of the Income Tax Act and consequential proceedings are hereby set aside.

4. All pending applications also stand disposed of accordingly.

(SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA)
JUDGE

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

August 29, 2024
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1. Whether speaking/reasoned? ***Yes/No***
2. Whether reportable? ***Yes/No***

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