

MAHAVIR  
v.  
LAKHMI AND ANR.

JANUARY 22, 2007

[DR. ARIJIT PASAYAT AND S.H. KAPADIA, JJ.]

*Code of Civil Procedure, 1908—s. 100—Second appeal—Substantial question of law—Formulation—Necessity of—Held: Second appeal has to be heard on the substantial question formulated—In absence thereof appeal shall fail—Appeal—Second appeal.*

**Present appeal was filed questioning the judgment of High Court which allowed the second appeal without formulating a question of law.**

**Allowing the appeal, the Court**

**HELD: 1. In view of Section 100 CPC, the memorandum of appeal shall precisely state substantial question or questions of law involved in the appeal as required under sub-section (3) of Section 100. Where the High Court is satisfied that in any case any substantial question of law is involved it shall formulate that question under sub-section (4) and the second appeal has to be heard on the question so formulated as stated in sub-section (5) of Section 100. [Para 6] [1136-F]**

**2. The impugned judgment passed by the High Court does not show that any substantial question of law has been formulated or that the second appeal was heard on the question, if any, so formulated. That being so, the judgment cannot be maintained. The matter is remitted to the High Court, which shall formulate substantial questions of law, if any, and then deal with the matter. [Paras 8 & 12] [1137-E 1138-G]**

*Ishwar Dass Jain v. Sohan Lal, [2000] 1 SCC 434; Roop Singh v. Ram Singh, [2000] 3 SCC 708; Kanahaiyalal and Ors. v. Anupkumar and Ors., [2003] 1 SCC 430 and Ram Sakhi Devi (Smt.) v. Chhatra Devi and Ors., [2005] 6 SCC 181- relied on.*

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION : Civil Appeal No. 301 of 2007.

From the Final Judgments/Orders dated 4.8.2004 and 11.10.2004 of the

A High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh in R.S.A. No. 1325/1983 and C.M. No. 9023-C/2004 in R.S.A. No. 1325/1983.

R. Venkataramani, Sr. Adv., Ashok Panigrahi, Manju Aggarwal and Satya Mitra Garg for the Appellant.

B Chaitanya Siddharth, Mrs. P. Purnima, Mukesh K. Sharma and Rameshwar Prasad Goyal, Adv. for the Respondents.

The Judgment of the Court was delivered by

C **DR. ARIJIT PASAYAT, J. :** 1. Heard learned counsel for the parties.

2. Leave granted.

3. These appeals are directed against the judgment passed by learned Single Judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court allowing the Second Appeal filed by the defendant and rejecting the application for review.

D 4. The plaintiff has filed the present appeals against the aforesaid orders.

E 5. Though several points were urged in support of the appeals, main ground was that the Second appeal was allowed without formulating a question of law.

F 6. In view of Section 100 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (in short the 'Code') the memorandum of appeal shall precisely state substantial question or questions of law involved in the appeal as required under sub-section (3) of Section 100. Where the High Court is satisfied that in any case any substantial question of law is involved it shall formulate that question under sub-section (4) and the second appeal has to be heard on the question so formulated as stated in sub-section (5) of Section 100.

G 7. Section 100 of the Code deals with "Second Appeal". The provision reads as follows:

H "Section 100- (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided in the body of this Code or by any other law for the time being in force, an appeal shall lie to the High Court from every decree passed in appeal by any Court subordinate to the High Court, if the High

Court is satisfied that the case involves a substantial question of law.

A

(2) An appeal may lie under this section from an appellate decree passed ex parte.

(3) In an appeal under this Section, the memorandum of appeal shall precisely state the substantial question of law involved in the appeal.

B

(4) Where the High Court is satisfied that a substantial question of law is involved in any case, it shall formulate that question.

C

(5) The appeal shall be heard on the question so formulated and the respondent shall, at the hearing of the appeal, be allowed to argue that the case does not involve such question:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to take away or abridge the power of the Court to hear, for reasons to be recorded, the appeal on any other substantial question of law, not formulated by it, if it is satisfied that the case involves such question."

D

8. A perusal of the impugned judgment passed by the High Court does not show that any substantial question of law has been formulated or that the second appeal was heard on the question, if any, so formulated. That being so, the judgment cannot be maintained.

E

9. In *Ishwar Dass Jain v. Sohan Lal*, [2000] 1 SCC 434 this Court in para 10, has stated thus:

F

"10. Now under Section 100 CPC, after the 1976 Amendment, it is essential for the High Court to formulate a substantial question of law and it is not permissible to reverse the judgment of the first appellate Court without doing so."

G

10. Yet again in *Roop Singh v. Ram Singh*, [2000] 3 SCC 708 this Court has expressed that the jurisdiction of a High Court is confined to appeals involving substantial question of law. Para 7 of the said judgment reads:

H

A                   “7. It is to be reiterated that under section 100 CPC jurisdiction  
of the High Court to entertain a second appeal is confined only to  
such appeals which involve a substantial question of law and it  
does not confer any jurisdiction on the High Court to interfere with  
pure questions of fact while exercising its jurisdiction under section  
B                   100 CPC. That apart, at the time of disposing of the matter the High  
Court did not even notice the question of law formulated by it at  
the time of admission of the second appeal as there is no reference  
of it in the impugned judgment. Further, the fact findings courts  
after appreciating the evidence held that the defendant entered into  
C                   the possession of the premises as a batai, that is to say, as a tenant  
and his possession was permissive and there was no pleading or  
proof as to when it became adverse and hostile. These findings  
recorded by the two courts below were based on proper appreciation  
of evidence and the material on record and there was no perversity,  
illegality or irregularity in those findings. If the defendant got the  
D                   possession of suit land as a lessee or under a batai agreement then  
from the permissive possession it is for him to establish by cogent  
and convincing evidence to show hostile animus and possession  
adverse to the knowledge of the real owner. Mere possession for  
a long time does not result in converting permissive possession  
into adverse possession (*Thakur Kishan Singh v. Arvind Kumar*,  
E                   [1994] 6 SCC 591. Hence the High Court ought not to have  
interfered with the findings of fact recorded by both the courts  
below.”

F                   11. The position has been reiterated in *Kanahaiyalal and Ors. v.*  
*Anupkumar and Ors.*, [2003] 1 SCC 430 and *Ram Sakhi Devi (Smt.) v.*  
*Chhatra Devi and Others*, [2005] 6 SCC 181.

G                   12. The matter is remitted to the High Court, which shall formulate  
substantial questions of law, if any, and then deal with the matter. Needless  
to say if there is/are question(s) of law, the appeal has to be dismissed. We  
express no opinion in that regard.

13. Appeals are allowed without any orders as to costs.