

M/S Namo Narayan Singh v. State Of U.P. And 2 Others

WRIT TAX No. 1476 of 2022 | 2023-10-10 | Allahabad High Court

Official court-text rendition | Finin2min Judgment Intelligence

Neutral Citation No. - 2023:AHC:194723

Case :- WRIT TAX No. - 1476 of 2022

Petitioner :- M/S Namo Narayan Singh Respondent :- State Of U.P. And 2 Others Counsel for Petitioner :- Pranjali Shukla Counsel for Respondent :- C.S.C.

1. Heard Mr. Pranjali Shukla for the petitioner and Mr. Rishi Kumar, learned A.C.S.C. for respondents.
2. The instant Writ Tax is being entertained by this Court in view of the fact that G.S.T. Tribunal is not functional in the State of Uttar Pradesh pursuant to the Gazette notification of the Central Government bearing number CG-DL-E-14092023-248743 dated 14.09.2023.
3. By means of present petition, the petitioner is assailing the order dated 20.12.2019 passed by Assistant Commissioner, Commercial Tax, respondent no. 3 and the order dated 27.6.2022 passed by the Additional Commissioner, respondent no. 2.
4. Brief facts of the case are that the petitioner is a proprietorship firm having G.S.T.I.N. No. 09AJPC0956DIZG and engaged in the business of civil construction works in various government departments. On 7.12.2019 a show cause notice was issued to the petitioner but no reply was submitted to it and by order dated 20.12.2019, the G.S.T. registration of the petitioner was cancelled. Against the said order, the petitioner has preferred an appeal which has also been rejected by the impugned order dated 27.6.2022. Hence the present petition.
5. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that show cause notice was issued on 7.12.2019 for cancellation of registration but in the said notice, no date and time was mentioned for appearing the petitioner before the authority concerned as provided under Section 29 (2) under the Act but by the impugned order, the GST registration of the petitioner was cancelled without assigning any reason. He submits that the appellate authority has also dismissed the appeal filed by the petitioner without assigning any cogent reason. He submits that as the show cause notice was vague and does not refer any particular fact as required under the Act, the impugned order is liable to be set aside. He prays for allowing the present petition.
6. Per contra, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel supports the impugned order and prays for dismissal of the writ petition.
7. After hearing the counsel for the parties, the Court has perused the records.
8. From the perusal of the impugned order, it transpires that the same has been passed without recording any cogent reason for cancelling the GST registration of the petitioner and appellate authority has also dismissed the appeal filed by the petitioner summarily without assigning any reason.
9. An order without valid reasons cannot be sustained. To give reasons is the rule of natural justice, highlighting this rule, Hon'ble Supreme Court held in the case of The Secretary & Curator, Victoria Memorial v. Howrah Ganatantrik Nagrik Samity and ors., JT 2010(2)SC 566 para 31 to 33 as under :

"31. It is a settled legal proposition that not only administrative but also judicial order must be supported by reasons, recorded in it. Thus, while deciding an issue, the Court is bound to give reasons for its conclusion. It is the duty and obligation on the part of the Court to record reasons while disposing of the case. The hallmark of an order and exercise of judicial power by a judicial forum is to disclose its reasons by itself and giving of reasons has always been insisted upon as one of the fundamentals of sound administration justice - delivery system, to make known that there had been proper and due application of mind to the issue before the Court and also as an essential requisite of principles of natural justice. The giving of reasons for a decision is an essential attribute of judicial and judicious disposal of a matter before Courts, and which is the only indication to know about the manner and quality of exercise undertaken, as also the fact that the Court concerned had really applied its mind. " [Vide State of Orissa Vs. Dhaniram Luhar (JT 2004(2) SC 172 and State of Rajasthan Vs. Sohan Lal & Ors. JT 2004 (5) SCC 338:2004 (5)

SCC 573].

32. Reason is the heartbeat of every conclusion. It introduces clarity in an order and without the same, it becomes lifeless. Reasons substitute subjectivity by objectivity. Absence of reasons renders the order indefensible/unsustainable particularly when the order is subject to further challenge before a higher forum. [Vide Raj Kishore Jha Vs. State of Bihar & Ors. AIR 2003 SC 4664; Vishnu Dev Sharma Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. (2008) 3 SCC 172; Steel Authority of India Ltd. Vs. Sales Tax Officer, Rourkela I Circle & Ors. (2008) 9 SCC 407; State of Uttaranchal & Anr. Vs. Sunil Kumar Singh Negi AIR 2008 SC 2026; U.P.S.R.T.C. Vs. Jagdish Prasad Gupta AIR 2009 SC 2328; Ram Phal Vs. State of Haryana & Ors. (2009) 3 SCC 258; Mohammed Yusuf Vs. Faij Mohammad & Ors. (2009) 3 SCC 513;

and State of Himachal Pradesh Vs. Sada Ram & Anr. (2009) 4 SCC 422].

33. Thus, it is evident that the recording of reasons is principle of natural justice and every judicial order must be supported by reasons recorded in writing. It ensures transparency and fairness in decision making. The person who is adversely affected may know, as why his application has been rejected.

10. Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Chandana Impex Pvt. Ltd. Vs. Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi, 2011(269)E.L.T. 433 (S.C.)(para 8) held as under :

"8. Having bestowed our anxious consideration on the facts at hand, we are of the opinion that there is some merit in the submission of learned counsel for the appellant that while dealing with an appeal under Section 130 of the Act, the High Court should have examined each question formulated in the appeal with reference to the material taken into consideration by the Tribunal in support of its finding thereon and given its reasons for holding that question is not a substantial question of law. It needs to be emphasised that every litigant, who approaches the court for relief is entitled to know the reason for acceptance or rejection of his prayer, particularly when either of the parties to the lis has a right of further appeal. Unless the litigant is made aware of the reasons which weighed with the court in denying him the relief prayed for, the remedy of appeal will not be meaningful. It is that reasoning, which can be subjected to examination at the higher forums. In State of Orissa Vs. Dhaniram Luhar² this Court, while reiterating that reason is the heart beat of every conclusion and without the same, it becomes lifeless, observed thus :

"8.....Right to reason is an indispensable part of a sound judicial system; reasons at least sufficient to indicate an application of mind to the matter before court. Another rationale is that the affected party can know why the decision has gone against him. One of the salutary requirements of natural justice is spelling out reasons for the order made;....."

11. Following this very view, the Supreme Court in State of Rajasthan v. Rajendra Prasad Jain, (2008)15 SSC 711 stated that 'reason is the heartbeat of every conclusion, and without the same it becomes lifeless.

12. Providing of reasons in orders is of essence in judicial proceedings. Every litigant who approaches the Court with a prayer is entitled to know the reasons for acceptance or rejection of such request. Either of the parties to the lis has a right of appeal and, therefore, it is essential for them to know the considered opinion of the Court to make the remedy of appeal meaningful.

13. It is the reasoning which ultimately culminates into final decision which may be subject to examination of the appellate or

other higher Courts. It is not only desirable but, in view of the consistent position of law, mandatory for the Court or Authority to pass orders while recording reasons in support thereof, however, brief they may be. It is a settled canon of legal jurisprudence that the Courts/Authorities are vested with discretionary powers but such powers are to be exercised judiciously, equitably and in consonance with the settled principles of law. Whether or not, such judicial discretion has been exercised in accordance with the accepted norms, can only be reflected by the reasons recorded in the order impugned before the higher Court. Often it is said that absence of reasoning may ipso facto indicate whimsical exercise of judicial discretion.

14. Reason is the heart beat of every conclusion. In the absence of reasons the order becomes lifeless. Non recording of reasons renders the order to be violative of principles of natural justice. Reasons ensures transparency and fairness in decision making. It enables litigant to know reasons for acceptance or rejection of his prayer. It is statutory requirement of natural justice. Reasons are really linchpin to administration of justice. It is link between the mind of the decision taker and the controversy in question. Thus failure to give reasons amounts to denial of justice.

15. In view of above, the writ petition is allowed. The impugned orders are set aside.

16. The matter is remitted back to the the first appellate authority who shall pass a fresh reasoned and speaking order in accordance with law, expeditiously, preferably within a period of two months from the date of production of a certified copy of this order, after affording reasonable opportunities of hearing to the parties concerned.

Order Date :- 10.10.2023 Rahul Dwivedi/-

2023-10-11T17:25:55+0530 High Court of Judicature at Allahabad