



**202 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

SAO-62-2015 (O&M)

Date of decision : 10.02.2025

Sunder Pal and others

...Appellants

Vs.

Karminder Singh and another

...Respondents

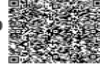
CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Inderjit Sharma, Advocate
for the appellants.

None for the respondents.

ANIL KSHETARPAL, J. (Oral)

1. The respondents are not being represented for the last five dates of hearing. Today again, the position is no different.
2. In this second appeal against the order the defendants assail the correctness of First Appellate Court's order remitting the matter back to the trial Court for fresh decision.
3. Sh. Karminder Singh and Sh. Joginder Singh, the respondents filed a suit for possession of plot measuring 340 sq. yards, which was dismissed on 25.04.2014. The plaintiff filed first appeal. He also filed an application under Order 41 Rule 27 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for permission to lead additional evidence. The First Appellate Court has remitted the matter back to the trial Court on the ground that fresh demarcation of the property shall be required in order to decide the controversy while allowing application for permission to lead additional evidence.



4. The scope and ambit of Order 41 Rule 23 and 23-A of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 has been explained by the Hon'ble Supreme 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 XLI 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 XLI 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 XLI 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.”

5. It is not permissible for the First Appellate Court to remit the matter back to the trial Court only to appoint a fresh Local Commissioner to demarcate the property.

6. The First Appellate Court, if required, is entitled to appoint the Local Commissioner to get the property demarcated. Hence, as per the aforesaid rules, the First Appellate Court can only remit the matter back to the trial Court if it sets aside the judgment of lower Court on merits and re-trial is considered necessary. In this case, the order of the First Appellate Court does not fulfill both the mandatory requirements. Hence, the same is set aside. The first appeal is restored to its original number. The appellant is directed to appear before the First Appellate Court on 10.03.2025.

7. The appeal is disposed of.

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

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

10.02.2025

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Whether speaking/reasoned :	Yes	No
Whether Reportable :	Yes	No