

P.K. Badiani vs The Commissioner Of Income Tax, Bombay on 21 September, 1976

Equivalent citations: 1977 AIR 560, 1977 SCR (1) 638, AIR 1977 SUPREME COURT 560, 1976 4 SCC 562, 1977 TAX. L. R. 158, 1977 UPTC 126, 1977 (1) ITJ 138, 1977 SCC (TAX) 66, 1977 (1) SCJ 221, 105 ITR 642, 1976 45 TAXATION 83

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Bench: N.L. Untwalia, Hans Raj Khanna, Jaswant Singh

PETITIONER:

P.K. BADIANI

Vs.

RESPONDENT:

THE COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX, BOMBAY

DATE OF JUDGMENT 21/09/1976

BENCH:

UNTWALIA, N.L.

BENCH:

UNTWALIA, N.L.

KHANNA, HANS RAJ

SINGH, JASWANT

CITATION:

1977 AIR 560

1977 SCR (1) 638

1976 SCC (4) 562

ACT:

Income tax Act (11 of 1922), ss. 2(6A)(e) and 10(2)(vi-b)--Development rebate treated as accumulated profits--Withdrawal of amount by shareholder from Company's account--If withdrawal can be treated as dividend since amount withdrawn is within accumulated profits.

HEADNOTE:

Under s. 2(6A)(e) of the Income Tax Act, 1922, dividend includes any payment by a company, not being a company in which the public are substantially interested within the meaning of s. 23A, of any sum by way of advance to a shareholder to the extent to which the company possesses accumu-

lated profits.

The appellant-assessee was a shareholder in a company in which the public were not substantially interested within the meaning of s. 23A. He had withdrawn some amounts from the company's account. The company had been allowed development rebate under s. 10(2)(vi-b) and that amount was debited in the profit and loss account of the company for the accounting year leaving a small balance of profit in the profit and loss account. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner treated the entire sum, that is, the amount allowed as development rebate and the amount of balance in the profit and loss account, as the amount of accumulated profits possessed by the company. Treating the withdrawals by the appellant as advances by the company to him and finding the highest amount of advance to the assessee to be within the total figure of accumulated profits as arrived at by him, he directed the addition of the advance to the assessee's income as dividend. u/s 2(6A)(e) of the Act. The Tribunal held that the development rebate was not liable to be treated as accumulated profits; but, on reference, the High Court substantially confirmed the order of the Appellate Assistant Commissioner.

On the question whether the development rebate could be treated as accumulated profits in the hands of the company s. u/s 2(6A)(e), the appellant contended that the development rebate, being identical with initial depreciation is in the nature of depreciation allowance, and since it is deductible from the assessable profits of the company, it is also a type of outgoing expenditure or out-of-pocket cost, and was therefore, deductible from the company's commercial profits.

Dismissing the appeal,

HELD: The development rebate reserve created by the company, although it does not form part of the assessable profits, undoubtedly forms part of the commercial profits and hence constituted accumulated profits of the company.. within the meaning 2(6A)(e). [648D]

(1) The term 'profits' in taxation law varies in its meaning according to the context. The expression 'accumulated profits' occurring 2(6A) means profits in the commercial sense that is profits in the real and true sense of the term and not assessable or taxable profits. [642E]

E.D. Sassoon & Company Ltd. and Others v. Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay City 26 ITR 27 at page 46, Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay v. Ahmedbhai Umarbhai. & Co., Bombay 18 ITR 472 at 502, Commissioner of Income-tax. Bombay City v. Bipinchandra Maganlal & Co. Ltd. 41 ITR 290 and Gobaid Motor Service (P) Ltd. v. Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras 60 ITR 417 followed.

(2) Although they are not identical and differ in some material particulars, initial depreciation and development rebate are similar in nature as both are by

way of incentive for installation of new machinery or plant. But the initial depreciation or the development rebate is not a recurring allowance for the subsequent years like the normal depreciation allowance provided 10(2)(vi) or the additional depreciation provided 10(2)(vi-a). The normal depreciation and the additional depreciation are permitted to be deducted from the written down value. But the amount of the initial depreciation is not deductible in determining the written down value. [644D-E]

(3) Normal depreciation reserve of the company may not form part of the accumulated past profits as held in Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay v. Viramgam Mills Co. Ltd. (43 ITR 270). But since the initial depreciation or the development rebate cannot be equated with normal depreciation, it is not a deductible item of cost or expenditure in arriving at the commercial profits. The initial depreciation or the development rebate is not allowed as an extra deductible allowance of business expenses for meeting the costs of replacement in future years, but they are meant merely to reduce the tax liability of the assessee for the year of installation only, in order to give him an incentive to instal new machinery or plant [645D-F]

(4) The purpose of 2(6A) is to include within the term 'dividend', for the purpose of taxation, certain distributions or payments as deemed dividends. 2(6A)(c) provides that 'dividend' includes any distribution to the shareholders liquidation to the extent to which the distribution is attributable to accumulated profits. In Tea Estate India Pvt. Ltd. v. C.I.T., W. Bengal (103 ITR 785) it was held that accumulated profits in cl. (c) include development rebate. If for the purpose of distribution the amount of development rebate could form part of the accumulated profits of the company, a fortiori, it would be so far the purpose of cl. (e) also. [646B; 645G]

(5) The use of the expression 'whether capitalised or not', as qualifying the expression 'accumulated profits' in cls. (a) to (d), but not in cl. (e), shows that the legislature does not intend to rope in capitalised profits in cl. (e). That is, to the extent the profits have been capitalised in accordance with the law and its Articles of Association, a company cannot be said to possess any accumulated profits. But in the present case, the accumulated profits of the company were never capitalised. Merely transferring the sum to the development reserve account by debiting it to the profit and loss account did not amount to capitalisation of profits. The nature of the assets did not change out continued to remain as profits. [646E-G; 647A-B]

Ann Bouch and William Bouch v. William Bouch Sprou (12 Appeal Cases, 385 applied.

Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras v. K. Srinivasan and others 50 ITR 786 approved.

Sheth Haridas Achratlal v. Commissioner of Income tax, Bombay North, Kutch and Saurashtra, Baroda 27 ITR 684

JUDGMENT :

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION: Civil Appeal No. 1695 of 1971. From the Judgment and Order dated 2-2-1970 of the Bombay High Court in I.T. Reference No. 54/63) V. Rajagopal and A.G. Pudissery for the Appellant. S.T. Desai, B.B.Ahuja and R.N. Sachthey for the Respondent. UNTWALIA, J. This is an appeal by an assessee on grant of a certificate of fitness by the Bombay High Court under section 66A (2) of the Income-tax Act, 1922-hereinafter referred to as the 1922 Act. The assessee is an individual. We are concerned in this case with his assessment for the assessment year 1958-59-corresponding accounting year being 1st April, 1957 to 31st March, 1958. The Income tax Tribunal made a composite order disposing of the assessee's appeals in respect of two assessment years i.e. 1958-59 and 1959-60. The decision of the Tribunal was partly in favour of the assessee and partly in favour of the Revenue. In respect of the assessment year 1958-59, a reference under section 66(1) of the 1922 Act was made by the Tribunal to the High Court. Four questions were referred-one at the instance of the Commissioner of Income-tax and three at the instance of the assessee. The High Court by its judgment under appeal which is reported in Commissioner of Income-tax (Central), Bombay v. P.K. Badiani(1) has answered almost all the questions. against the assessee. Hence this appeal. Mr. V. Rajgopal who had argued the case of the assessee before the High Court appeared before us in support of the appeal also. He could not and did not attack the decision of the High Court as respects questions 2, 3 and 4. But he strenuously urged before us for reversal of the High Court judgment in regard to question No. 1 which was referred at the instance of the Commissioner. If the assessee could succeed before us in getting an answer in his favour to the said question, then, substantially he would have succeeded in getting the whole of the relief. The first and the only question which falls for our examination in this appeal was referred by the Tribunal to the High Court in the following terms:

"(1) Whether the development rebate reserve created by the company by duly charging the amount to the profit and loss account and being allowable under the Act constituted 'accumulated profits' of the company within the meaning of section 2(6A)(e) of the Act?"

We proceed to state the necessary facts for determination of the above question only.

The assessee was a major shareholder (although at the relevant time being a major or minor shareholder did not make any difference in law) in the Sadhana Textile Mills Pvt. Ltd. which was indisputably a Company in which the public were not substantially interested within the meaning of Section 23A of the 1922-Act. The assessee was also the Managing Director of the said Private Limited Company. He had a mutual open and current account in the books of the Company--the accounting year of which was the calendar year i.e. commencing from January and ending in December. The assessee in his accounting year 1957-58 had withdrawn considerable amounts of money from the Company's account. The Income-tax Officer treated the withdrawals made by the assessee as advances or loans given by the Company to him and taxed the amount as dividend under

section 2(6A)(e) of the 1922 Act. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner modified the figure of the deemed dividend calculated by the Income-tax Officer and took the highest amount of advance made (I) 76 I.T.R. 369.

to the assessee by the Company at a particular point of time in the year in question as the amount of dividend taxable in the hands of the assessee. The said amount was within the total figure of accumulated profits in the hands of the Company at the relevant time, i.e. 31st December, 1956. It may just be stated here that according to the 1922 Act only the accumulated profits possessed by the company at the end of the corresponding previous year had to be taken into account unlike the corresponding provision engrafted in section 2(22) of the Income-tax Act, 1961--hereinafter referred to as the 1961 Act, read with Explanation II thereto. It was found that the aggregate amount of development rebate allowed to the Company under section 10(2)(vi-b) was Rs. 2,36,470/-. The said amount had been debited in the profit and loss account of the Company for the accounting year 1966 leaving a balance of Rs. 6,641/- only in the profit and loss account. The Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax treated the entire sum of Rs. 2,43,111/- as the amount of accumulated profits possessed by the Company. Finding the highest amount of advance to the assessee at a particular point of time to be aggregating to Rs. 1,83,493.70 he directed the addition of the said amount in the assessee's income under section 2(6A)(e) of the 1922-Act. The High Court has directed some modification in the calculation of the said amount while answering the other questions referred to it at the instance of the assessee and we need not go into their details.

The main question for our determination in this appeal is whether the aggregate of the development rebates allowed to the Company under section 10(2)(vi-b) of the 1922-Act could be treated as accumulated profits in the hands of the Company under section 2(6A)(e).

The Income-tax Acts have undergone numerous changes from time to time and various amendments have been made both in the 1922 Act as also in the 1961-Act. We shall do well to quote all the subclauses (a) to (e) of section 2(6A) of the 1922-Act. They read as follows:

"2(6A) "dividend" includes--

(a) any distribution by a company of accumulated profits whether capitalised or not, if such distri-

bution entails the release by the company to its shareholders of all or any part of the assets of the company;

(b) any distribution by a company of debentures, debenture-stock or deposit certificates in any form, whether with or without interest, to the extent to, which the company possesses accumulated profits, whether capitalised or not;

(c) any distribution made to the shareholders of a company on its liquidation, to the extent to which the distribution is attributable to the accumulated profits of the company immediately before its liquidation, whether capitalised or not;

(d) any distribution by a company on the reduction of its capital to the extent to which the company possesses accumulated profits which arose after the end of the previous year ending next before the 1st day of April, 1933, whether such accumulated profits have been capitalised or not;

(e) any payment by a company, not being a company in which the public are substantially interested within the meaning of section 23A, of any sum (whether as representing a part of the assets of the company or otherwise) by way of advance or loan to a shareholder or any payment by any such company on behalf or for the individual benefit of a shareholder, to the extent to which the company in either case possesses accumulated profits;

Explanation--The expression "accumulated profits," wherever it occurs in this clause, shall not include capital gains arising before the 1st day of April, 1946, or after the 31st day of March, 1948 and before the 1st day of April, 1956." The expression "accumulated profits" occurring in clause (e) of section 6A, or as a matter of that in any of the other clauses, undoubtedly means profits in the commercial sense and not assessable or taxable profits liable to tax as income under the 1922 Act. It is a well known concept of the taxation law that the term 'profits' in the various sections of the Income-tax Acts have not got the same meaning. In the context --sometimes it means the assessable profits and sometimes it means the commercial profits. In Palmer's Company Law, Twenty First Edition at page 662 the distinction between profits, divisible profits and profits available for dividend has been pointed out. At the said page occurs an oft quoted classical passage from the judgment of Fletcher Moulton, L.J., in *Re Spanish Prospecting Co. Ltd.* (1) which runs thus:

"'Profits' implies a comparison between the state of a business at two specific dates usually separated by an interval of a year. The fundamental meaning is the amount of gain made by the business during the year. This can only be ascertained by a comparison of the assets of the business at the two dates If the total assets of the business at the two dates be compared, the increase which they show at the later date as compared with the earlier date (due allowance of course being made for any capital introduced into or taken out of the business in the meanwhile) represents in strictness the profits of the business during the period in question."

Bhagwati, J. has quoted the above passage with approval in the case of *E.D. Sassoon & Company Ltd. and others v. Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay City.* (2) Almost to the same effect, was the view (1) [1911] 1 Ch. 92, 98. (2) 26 I.T.R. 27 at page 46.

expressed by Mahajan, J. as he then was, in the case of *Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay v. Ahmedbhai Umarbhai & Co., Bombay* (1) In *Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay City v. Bipinchandra Maganlal & Co. Ltd.* (2) Shah, J., as he then was, delivering the judgment on behalf of the Court while interpreting the expression "smallness of profits" occurring in section 23A of the 1922 Act said at page 296:

"A company normally distributes dividends out of its business profits and not out of its assessable income. There is no definable relation between the assessable income and the profits of a business concerned in a commercial sense. Computation of

income for purposes of assessment of income-tax is based on a variety of artificial rules and takes into account several fictional receipts, deductions and allowances Smallness of the profit in section 23A has to be adjudged in the light of commercial principles and not in the light of total receipts, actual or fictional."

The same view has been expressed by this Court in *Gobald Motor Service (P) Ltd. v. Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras* (3). We think that the term "profits" occurring in section 2(6A)(e) of the 1922 Act means profits in the commercial sense—that is to say the profits made by the Company in the real and true sense of the term. We may just give one example. Suppose the assessable profit of a company is Rs. 1,00,000/- out of which the Company had to pay a tax under the Income-tax Act—say to the extent of Rs. 30,000/-. Although payment of tax is not a sum deductible from the assessable profits of the Company, in the commercial sense the Company would be left with a sum of Rs. 70,000/- only as profits. We may add that Mr. Rajgopal could not and did not seriously dispute this proposition of law.

The gravamen of the argument of the assessee has been that development rebate deductible from the assessable profits of the Company is also a type of outgoing expenditure or out-of-pocket cost which is deductible while ascertaining the profits of the Company in the commercial sense. Counsel submitted that it is in the nature of a depreciation allowance and is identical with initial depreciation; it should, therefore, be deducted from the commercial profits of the Company as held by the Gujarat High Court in the case of *Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay North v. Viramgam Mills Co. Ltd.* (4). This argument found favour with the Tribunal but was repelled by the High Court. The point is *res integra* and we have to examine the correctness of the view expressed by the High Court. Depreciation allowance has been allowed to be deducted from the assessable profits of an assessee under section 10(2) (vi) of the 1922 Act corresponding to section 32 of the 1961 Act. It would appear from the report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission 1953-54 Vol. II as to what is the nature of the depreciation allowance; vide Chapter V, page 74. The normal depreciation provided in clause (vi) and the additional depreciation mentioned in clause (vi-a) of section 10(2) of (1) 18 I.T.R. 472 at 502. (2) 41 I.T.R.

290. (3) 60 I.T.R. 417. (4) 43 I.T.R.

270. the 1922 Act is permitted to be deducted from the 'written down value'. By and large, the cost of replacements is allowed as deductions in lieu of depreciation in respect of certain assets. By the amendments made by the Income-tax Amendment Act, 1946., the Finance Act, 1955 and the Finance Act, 1956 certain initial depreciation was allowed in respect of buildings newly erected or the machinery and plant newly installed. Obviously, it was by way of an incentive for the new structures or the new installations. The amount of initial depreciation was not deductible in determining the 'written down value' although under proviso (c) it was to be taken into account in the aggregate of all allowances so as not to permit them to exceed the maximum limit provided therein. Development rebate was provided in clause (vi-b) with effect from 1st April, 1955 by the Finance Act of 1955. There was an overlapping period of about two years in relation to the allowance of initial depreciation or the development rebate. But as provided for in clause (vi) an assessee could not have had both even in regard to that period. Although initial depreciation and development

rebate were not identical as they differed in some material particulars, they were similar in nature as both were by way of incentive for installation of new machinery or plant. The initial depreciation or the development rebate was to be allowed, as the case may be; at a certain percentage of the actual cost of the machinery or the plant for the year of installation only. It was not a recurring allowance for the subsequent years like; the allowance of the normal depreciation or the additional depreciation. The Taxation Enquiry Commission in its report aforesaid had recommended in Chapter VII, page 98 of Vol. II for assisting the expansion and development of :productive enterprise by allowing them a proportion of new investment in fixed assets to be charged to current costs of production thereby permitting the taxable profits to be brought down to that extent. In the Finance Act of 1955 a provision was made to allow a development rebate of 25% of the cost of all new plant and machinery installed for business purposes instead of the then existing initial depreciation allowance of 20%. It would thus be seen that by way of an incentive for installation of new machinery and plants initial depreciation allowance of 20% was replaced by a development rebate of 25%. But it was, like grant of export rebate by way of incentive to make more exports, in the nature of an incentive for setting up new machineries and plants. We do not find any warrant for accepting the contention of Mr. Rajgopal that the initial depreciation or the development rebate was allowed as 'an extra deductible allowance of business expenses in the year of installation of new machinery for meeting the ever increasing costs of its replacement in future years. In our opinion it was meant merely to reduce the tax liability of the assessee in order to give him an incentive to install new machineries or plants. The Gujarat High Court in the case of Viramgam Mills Co. Ltd. (supra) was concerned with the question as to whether the normal depreciation reserve of 'the Company could be taken to be the accumulations of past profits within the meaning of the proviso to section 23A of the 1922 Act as it stood at the relevant time. It held that it could not form part of the accumulated past profits as in the words of Wixon (vide Wixon's Accounts Hand Book) it was "the estimated expiration of asset value" or as observed by Paton in his Accountants' Hand Book, Third edition it is an out-of-pocket cost as any other cost. Says the learned author in the above book at p. 746 thus:

"There is still widespread misapprehension as to the precise significance of the depreciation charge. It is often deemed a more or less imaginary and hypothetical element, and is sharply contrasted with the regular "out-of-pocket" operating costs. As a matter of fact there is nothing at all imaginary about depreciation as a cost of business operation and at bottom it is just as much 'an out-of-pocket cost as any other. The depreciation charge is merely the periodic operating aspect of fixed-asset costs, and there is no doubt as to the reality of such costs. Far from being a non-out-of pocket charge depreciation represents the extreme example of prepayment."

Mr. S.T. Desai, learned counsel for the Revenue drew our attention to the decision of the Calcutta High Court in Commissioner of Income tax. Calcutta v. Sri Bibhuti Bhusan Dutt(1) and submitted that it has taken a view different from the one taken by the Gujarat High Court even in regard to the nature of normal 'depreciation allowance. The Calcutta case seems to be one of a property-holding company, the profits of which were assessable under section 9 wherein the question of depreciation was not relevant. It is not necessary for us to examine in this case the exact nature of the normal

depreciation allowance and whether it is deductible from the profits of a person while determining his commercial profits. The view expressed by the Gujarat High Court seems to be reasonably plausible and correct and for the purposes of this case we shall assume it to be so. Yet, we do not feel persuaded to accept the argument of the assessee and equate the initial depreciation or the development rebate with the normal depreciation. In our opinion such an allowance is in no sense a deductible item of cost or expenditure in the process of settlement of the commercial profits. Although it does not form part of the assessable profits, undoubtedly it does form part of the commercial profits.

Tea Estate India Pvt. Ltd. v. Commissioner of Income-tax, West Bengal 11 (and vice versa)(2) one of us (Khanna, J.) delivering the judgment on behalf of the Court has interpreted the expression "accumulated profits" occurring in clause (c) of section 2(6A) of the 1922 Act to include the amount of development rebate in the commercial sense. It has been stated at page 794:

"The acceptance of the contention would necessarily postulate reading in section 2(6A)(c) the words "accumulated profits as are liable to be taxed under the Act". The words "as are liable to be taxed under the Act" are not there in the definition and it would not, in our opinion, be permissible to so construe the clause as if those words were a part of that clause. There is also nothing in the language (1) 48 I.T.R. 233. (2) 103 I.T.R. 785.

Or Context of that clause as would warrant such a construction. Accumulated profits would retain their character as such even though a part of them were not taxed as profits under the Act."

The purpose of section 2 (6A) of the 1922 Act corresponding to section 2(22) of the 1961 Act is to include within the term "dividend" for the purpose of taxation certain distributions or payments of certain items of money or the like as deemed dividend for the purpose of taxation. Under clause

(e) an advance or loan or money to a shareholder by a private Company has been directed to be treated as dividend to the extent to which the Company possessed accumulated profits. The advance or the loan, by a legal fiction, is to resemble the actual dividend. For the purpose of distribution of the dividend the amount of development rebate could form part of the profits of the Company; a fortiori, it would be so far the purposes of clause (e) also. During the course of the arguments of this appeal, our attention was directed to a new facet of the question under consideration and that is this. In clauses (a) to (d) of section 2(6A) of the 1922-Act so also in the corresponding clauses of section 2(22) of the 1961-Act the expression "accumulated profits" is qualified by the expression "whether capitalised or not". But the latter phrase is conspicuously absent in clause (e). What is the purpose of this difference in the phraseology of the various clauses of sub-section (6A) ? The reason is -not far to seek and yet not helpful to the assessee in this case.

The profits of a Company can be capitalised in accordance with the Articles of Association and the law. On the capitalisation of the profits they cease to be profits in the hands of the Company. The nature of the asset is changed although it does not make any difference in the total assets of the Company. But profits stand transmuted and transformed into capital. The most common example of

capitalisation of profits is by issuance of bonus shares to the shareholders. Clause (a) to (d) were intended by the Legislature to cover the cases of accumulated profits even though they may be capitalised. But the Legislature did not intend to rope in the capitalised profits in clause (e). We may add that though under clause (b) distribution by a Company of debentures, debenture stock or deposit certificates in any form in lieu of capitalised profits is to be deemed dividend within the meaning of sub-section (6A), mere distribution of bonus shares after capitalising the accumulated profits, unless the distribution entails the release by the Company to its shareholders of any part of the assets of the Company is not to be a deemed dividend. Even under the 1961 Act distribution of bonus shares to the equity shareholders after capitalising the profits in accordance with law is not to be a deemed dividend although distribution of such shares to preference shareholders is. It is thus clear that if money is paid to a shareholder of a private company by way of advance or loan after the accumulated profits have been capitalised in accordance with the law and the Articles of Association then such payment, although it may represent a part of the assets of the Company or otherwise, cannot be co-related to the capitalised profits of the Company. To the extent the profits have been capitalised the Company cannot be said to possess any accumulated profits.

But the Obvious difficulty in the way of the appellant is that the accumulated profits of the Company in the year in question were never capitalised. Mere transferring the sum of Rs. 2,36,470/- by debiting it to the profit and loss account to the development reserve account did not amount to the capitalisation of profits. The nature of the assets in the hands of the Company did not change. It remained profits in the hands of the Company.

According to the Dictionary of English Law by Earl' Jowitt, Vol. 1 "capitalisation" means "the conversion of profits or income into. capital, e.g., by resolution of a company". Buckley on the Companies Acts, thirteenth edition, has pointed out at page 907 "Profits carried to reserve do not cease to be profits unless and until they are effectually capitalised". Says the learned author at page 912 after referring to Article 128 corresponding to Regulation 96 of Table "A" of the Indian Companies Act:

"A company may, if its constitution so allows, capitalize profits, instead of dividing them, by applying them in paying up unissued shares, or debentures or other securities, and issuing such shares or securities as fully paid to its members, thereby transferring the sum capitalized from profit and loss or reserve account to share or loan capital account."

To the same effect is the statement of the law to be found in Palmer's Company Law, twenty-first edition page 673. The "capitalisation of profits". says the learned author, means "that profits which otherwise are available for distribution among the shareholders are not divided among them in cash, but that the shareholders are allotted further shares--or debentures--which are paid up wholly or in part out of those profits. The amount paid by the company out of its divisible profits on account of these newly issued shares is known as the bonus, and the shares are referred to as bonus shares." Lord Herschell in the case of *Ann Bouch and William Bouch v. William Bouch Sproul*(1) was considering as to what was the nature and substance of the transaction in question in that case. The learned and the noble Lord said at page 398: "I think we must look both at the 'substance and form

of the transaction And it was obviously contemplated, and was, I think, certain that no money would, in fact, pass from the company to the shareholders, but that the entire sum would remain in their hands as paid-up capital." And finally 'it was said at page 399: "I cannot, therefore, avoid the conclusion that the substance of the whole transaction was, and was intended to be, to convert the undivided profits into paid-up capital upon newly-created shares."

The Madras High Court has pointed out in Commissioner Income-tax, Madras v.K. Srinivasan and others(2), to quote the placitum only:

"For the purposes of section 2(6A)(e) of the Income tax Act, 1922, "accumulated profits" include general reserves.

(1) 12 Appeal Cases, 385.
(2) 50 I.T.R. 788.

Unless the profit is capitalised in some form or other mere transfer of the profits to any reserve account will not take away from profits the character of accumulated profits."

In Sheth Haridas Achratlal v. Commissioner of Income-tax, Bombay North, Kutch and Saurashtra, Baroda(1)--Chief Justice Chagla delivering the judgment on behalf of the Bench of the Bombay High Court said at page 690:

"But when we compare the language used by the Legislature in sub-clauses (a), (b) and (d) and when we note the omission of the qualifying words in sub-clause (c) then it is clear that the Legislature advisedly did not intend to subject to tax those accumulated profits which had been capitalised." It appears that the ex-

pression "capitalised or not": was added in clause (c) after this decision. For the reasons stated above, we hold that the development rebate reserve created by the Company by duly charging the amount of profit and loss account although liable as a deduction under the 1922 Act, constituted accumulated profits of the Company Within the meaning of section 2(6A)(e). We accordingly affirm the decision of the High Court and dismiss this appeal but in the circumstances make no orders as to costs.

V.P.S.
dismissed.
(2) 27 I.T.R. 684.

Appeal