

ORDER SHEET.
IN THE ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT, ISLAMABAD.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

W.P No.710 of 2022

Pakistan Oilfields Limited
VS

The Federation of Pakistan, etc.

S. No. of order/ proceedings	Date of order/ proceedings	Order with signature of Judge and that of parties or counsel where necessary.
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**28.02.2022. Sardar Ahmed Jamal Sukhera and Sikander
Sukhera, Advocates for the petitioner.**

Through the instant Writ Petition under Article 199 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, the petitioner has sought *inter alia* direction to respondent No.3 to decide its pending appeal and in the meanwhile restraining respondent No.2 from initiating the recovery proceedings in pursuance of order dated 29.07.2016 for the tax year from 01.07.2011 to 30.06.2012

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the impugned order is illegal, arbitrary and against the law. It was further contended that initiation of recovery proceedings during the pendency of petitioner's appeal is against its fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. It was further contended that it is trite law that unless

there is adjudication by one independent forum, no recovery proceedings can be initiated against the assessee. In this behalf learned counsel placed reliance on the case titled "*M/s Pak Saudi Fertilizers Ltd. Vs. Federation of Pakistan and others*" (2002 PTD 679), "*Z.N. Exporters (Pvt.) Ltd Vs. Collector of Sales Tax*" (2003 PTD 1746), "*Brothers Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd Vs. Appellate Tribunal Sales Tax*" (2003 PTD 1836). Learned counsel further contended that delay in decision of the appeal is not on part of the petitioner, therefore, impugned order dated 29.07.2016 may be suspended and recovery proceedings be stopped till the final decision of the appeal by respondent No.3. Learned counsel also expressed apprehension that respondent department is following practice of issuing the decision and immediately taking action for recovery without providing sufficient opportunity to further agitate the matter.

3. The submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner have substance. In this behalf the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan in case titled "*Mehram Ali Vs. Federation of Pakistan etc.*" (PLD 1998 SC 1445) has specifically held that there should be

adjudication of grievance by an independent Tribunal and even Lahore High Court in numerous judgments has held that an assessee is entitled to adjudication in respect of his disputed tax liabilities by at least one independent forum outside hierarchy of the respondent department.

4. In view of the above, the instant Writ Petition is disposed of with direction to respondent No.3 to hear and decide the appeal within a period of Sixty (60) days and till then and seven days after dispatch of order, no coercive measures shall be adopted against the petitioner by respondent No.2.

(AAMER FAROOQ)
JUDGE

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