



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
DATED THIS THE 25TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026
BEFORE**

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R DEVDAS

WRIT PETITION NO. 32354 OF 2025 (KLR-RES)

BETWEEN:

SRI. PRASANNA S.E.
AGED ABOUT 67 YEARS,
S/O LATE ERAIAH,
R/AT SHETTIGERE VILLAGE,
KASABA HOBLI, BELUR TALUK,
HASSAN DISTRICT - 573 115

...PETITIONER

(BY SRI. GURUPRASAD FOR
SRI. K.G. SADASHIVAIAH.,ADVOCATE)

AND:

1. THE STATE OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
REP BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
VIDHANA SOUDHA,
BENGALURU - 560 001
2. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HASSAN DISTRICT,
HASSAN - 573 201
3. THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
SAKALESHPURA SUB DIVISION,
SAKALESHPURA - 573 134.
4. THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER
HEMAVATHI RESERVOIR PROJECT,
OFFICE OF THE LAND ACQUISITION,
D.C. OFFICE BUILDING,
HASSAN - 573 201

Digitally signed
by JUANITA
THEJESWINI
Location: HIGH
COURT OF
KARNATAKA



5. THE TASHILDAR
BELUR TALUK,
BELUR – 573 115
6. THE INSPECTOR OF POLICE
D C R B DIVISION HASSAN,
CEN CRIME POLICE,
HASSAN – 573 201

...RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI. SHAMANTH NAIK, HCGP)

THIS WP IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES 226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA PRAYING TO ISSUE THE WRIT IN THE NATURE OF CERTIORARI QUASHING THE ORDER PASSED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT IN CASE NO.L.N.D/YA.BHU.MA(D). 134/2014-15 DATED 25.08.2022 AT ANNEXURE-A AND ETC.,

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR FINAL HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R DEVDAS

ORAL ORDER

The petitioner is aggrieved of the impugned order dated 25.08.2022 passed by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Hemavathi Reservoir Project, Hassan, in case No.L.N.D/Ya.Bhu.Ma(Da):134/2014-15.

2. The petitioner claims to be the legal representative of Sri.Earaiah, who lost his lands due to submergence of his lands under water on the construction of



Hemavati/Yagachi/Vatehole Reservoir Project. In terms of the scheme proposed by the State Government, a person who lost land on account of submergence for the project, would not only be entitled for compensation but also entitled for grant of alternative lands to ensure that the livelihood of such agriculturists are not lost. Accordingly, 4.00 Acres of land in Block No.2 of Sy.No.59 situated at Honnenahalli Kaval Village, Kasaba Hobli, Belur Taluk was granted in favour of the petitioner. However, several irregularities were found in the matter of allotment of alternative lands. Action was directed by the State Government having regard to such irregularities. The Special Land Acquisition Officer (for short 'SLAO') has passed the impugned order in respect of the petitioner cancelling the grant.

3. Having regard to the ground on which the impugned order has been passed, it is clear that the SLAO has cancelled the grant on one of the following grounds :

- a) Grant was made to a person who had not lost any land in submergence;



- b) Bogus grant order has been created, although no such grant order was passed;
- c) Dual grant orders have been passed on the basis of one award passed by the SLAO;
- d) Such dual grant orders and fictitious grant orders have been passed during the tenure of Sri V.Srinivas Gowda or Sri B.A.Jagadeesh who were the then Special Land Acquisition Officers;
- e) Land granted is a forest land and not revenue lands and therefore it could not have been granted.

4. The factual information and the ground on which the impugned order of cancellation has been passed by the SLAO is identifiable as one of the grounds noticed hereinabove. Therefore, all other observations made in the impugned order are hereby set aside as not specifically applicable to the petitioner. It is also a fact that the impugned order of cancellation was passed without hearing the grantee and therefore, on the ground of denial



of principles of natural justice alone, the impugned order of cancellation is required to be set aside.

5. Consequently, this Court proceeds to pass the following:

ORDER

- i) Writ petition is ***allowed in part.***
- ii) The impugned order dated 25.08.2022 in case No.LND/Ya.Bhu.Ma(Da):134/2014-15 passed by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Hemavathi Reservoir Project, Hassan, at Annexure 'A', is hereby quashed and set aside.
- iii) The matter stands remanded back to the SLAO to reconsider the matter afresh after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner. The petitioner is permitted to submit any material to defend the order of grant.
- iv) Insofar as the cancellation orders passed on the ground that the land in question is a forest land and not revenue land and therefore, it could not have been granted,



the SLAO is required to reconsider the matter after securing the opinion from the forest department as well as the Revenue department. If ultimately it is found that the land is a forest land, then alternative lands shall be granted to the petitioner.

- v) Consequent to the restoration of the grant in favour of the petitioner, the revenue entries shall also be restored in the RTC.

Sd/-
(R DEVDAS)
JUDGE

DL
List No.: 1 Sl No.: 82