

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CWP No.17804 of 2016
Date of Decision: 01.12.2016

Sohan Lal & Ors.

... Petitioners

VS.

State of Haryana & Anr.

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

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| 1. Whether speaking/reasoned? | Yes |
| 2. Whether reportable? | No |
| 3. Whether Reporters of local papers may be allowed to see the judgment? | Yes / No |
| 4. To be referred to the Reporters or not? | Yes / No |
| 5. Whether the judgment should be reported in the Digest? | Yes / No |

Present: Mr. Vikram Singh, Advocate for the petitioners

Mr. RKS Brar, Addl. AG Haryana
Mr. Ravi Dutt Sharma, DAG Haryana

SURYA KANT, J. (Oral)

(1) Two pieces of land of the petitioners measuring 1 kanal 19 marla and 1 kanal 1 marla, fully described in para 2 of the writ petition, situated within the revenue estate of Village Patti Taraf Insar, Tehsil & District Panipat were acquired vide award dated 21.02.1992. It is claimed that the acquisition is deemed to have lapsed on both the grounds mentioned in Section 24(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, namely, that physical possession of the site is still with the petitioners and the authorities have failed to deposit the compensation amount in the Reference Court as per Section 31(2) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

(2) The Land Acquisition Collector, Urban Estate, Rohtak has filed his status report dated 18.11.2016 and in para 3, it is admitted that the petitioners have not received the compensation and the same is lying

compensation amount has not been deposited in the Reference Court as per Section 31(2) of the 1894 Act.

(3) As regard to physical possession, it appears from the photographs that the land has not been developed for the public purpose for which it was acquired and therefore the same has not been put to use for years. It is thus difficult to say that the same is in physical possession of the petitioners.

(4) Be that as it may, once the petitioners have not been paid compensation nor the same has been deposited in the Reference Court as per Section 31(2) of the 1894, one of the mandatory condition of Section 24(2) of the 2013 Act are satisfied.

(5) For the detailed reasons assigned by this Court vide order dated 27.10.2016 rendered in CWP No.17464 of 2007 titled as Satnam Singh & Anr. vs. State of Haryana & Ors., the instant writ petition is allowed and the impugned acquisition is declared to have lapsed on both grounds as contained in Section 24(2) of 2013 Act.

(6) Having held so, we are further of the view that since Section 24(2) of 2013 Act itself in so many words contemplates the possibility of re-acquisition of the land/property in respect whereof the previous acquisition has lapsed, it is necessary to direct the petitioners to maintain *status quo* re: creation of third party rights; to keep the land/property free from all types of encumbrances and not to change the nature of land/property for a period of one year so that meanwhile the respondent-State may, if such property is needed for a “public purpose”, again acquire it. Such a direction is necessitated also for the reason that in numerous cases State or its agencies have taken possession in part and development works

have been executed except over that land/property in litigation. Those development works ought to be completed in public interest and the only consequence of lapsing of previous acquisition, mostly due to fault of the Government Officers/ Officials, would be that the owners of such land/property will be entitled to compensation and other benefits admissible under the 2013 Act.

(7) Ordered accordingly.

(Surya Kant)
Judge

01.12.2016
vishal shonkar

(Sudip Ahluwalia)
Judge