

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

WPC No. 1677 of 2019

Rajendra Prasad Dwivedi, S/o Late Gokul Prasad Dwivedi, Aged About 57 Years R/o Haveli Para, Ward No. 2, Sukli, Tehsil And District Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh. **--- Petitioner**

Versus

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Department Of Revenue And Disaster Management, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. The Land Acquisition Officer, Cum Sub Divisional Officer(Rev.), Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh, District Janjgir-Champa, Chhattisgarh.
3. National Highway Authorities Of India, Through Project Director, House No. 5196, Behind BTI College, Shankar Nagar, Raipur, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

---- Respondents

For Petitioner	:	Shri Sunil Otvani, Advocate
For Respondents/State	:	Shri Ashish Surana, PL
For Respondent No.3	:	Shri Navin Shukla, Advocate on behalf of Smt. Fouzia Mirza

Hon'ble Shri Justice Goutam Bhaduri

Order On Board

09/05/2019

1. Heard.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner's land situated at Khasra number 1399/2 measuring 0.085 hectares, Village Sukli, Tehsil and District Janjgir-Champa (CG) was acquired for expansion of National Highway No. 200 (New N. H. 49). However, while assessing compensation payable to the petitioner, multiplier factor of 1 has been applied, whereas, the Division Bench of this Court in WPC No.1649 of 2017

(Smt. Anita Agrawal Vs. State of Chhattisgarh and others) and other connected petitions, has set-aside the Notification dated 4.12.2014, applying multiplier factor of 1 with direction to the State Government to issue fresh Notification indicating the multiplier factors in terms of the guidelines laid down in the statute and the judgment of the Division Bench.

3. The following has been held by the Division Bench in para 10, 11 & 12.

“10. Further, the question is not about the power of the State Government to issue such notification, the question is the manner in which such power has been exercised which can also be levelled as mindless exercise of power since by restricting the multiplier of factor to 1.00, the State is obviously trying to treat all land owners as one. This will deny to the poor land owners of the remote villagers, fair compensation and rehabilitation, which is the primary object behind the new Land Acquisition Act of 2013.

11. Drawing analogy from the view taken by the Division Bench of Bombay High Court, which we have quoted with due approval, Court is left with no option but to strike down the notification dated 04.12.2014 contained in Annexure P/1. A direction is issued that keeping in mind the legal position which emerges, the State Government will issue a fresh notification indicating the multiplier factors, in terms of the guidelines laid down in the statute and the judgment.

12. It goes without saying that all awards and compensations in relation to not only these Petitioners but all such persons whose lands have been acquired and a multiplier of 1.00 has been used for calculating the compensation, the same will be required to be revised and revisited in light of the new notification, which is required to be notified by the State Government, on priority.”

4. In view of the above, the present writ petition is disposed of with direction that the petitioner shall move a representation before the concerned Collector (Land Acquisition)-respondent No.2 within a period of 4 weeks from today. Thereafter, the said Collector shall decide the representation within 10 weeks from the date of the State Government's fresh Notification in terms of the directions issued by the Division Bench.

5. The writ petition stands disposed of.

Sd/-
Goutam Bhaduri
Judge

Jyoti