

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

RFA No.821 of 1997 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 24.05.2019

Ganesh Dutt

... Appellant

VS.

Punjab State & Ors.

... Respondents

RFA-824-1997 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 24.05.2019

Ajit Singh @ Jit Singh

... Appellant

VS.

Punjab State & Ors.

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.S. SANDHAWALIA

Present: Mr. RS Manhas, Advocate for the appellant

Ms. Simran Grewal Randhawa, AAG Punjab

G.S. SANDHAWALIA, J. (Oral)

Exemption applications

Allowed as prayed for.

CMs stand disposed of.

CM-5341-CI-2019 IN/AND RFA-821-1997

CM-5343-CI-2019 IN/AND RFA-824-1997

Notice in the applications seeking a direction to the Registry to list the above mentioned appeals in view of the order dated 17.05.2018 passed by the Apex Court in **SLP(C) No.2987/2018 The State of Punjab & Ors. vs. Ram Singh & Ors.** on 17.05.2019.

Ms. Simran Grewal Randhawa, AAG Punjab accepts notice.

With the consent of counsel for the parties, the main cases are taken on board for final disposal.

The present appeals under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 arise out of the award dated 24.05.1996 passed by the Reference Court, Gurdaspur pertaining to the notification dated 30.01.1992 whereby land was acquired for reservoir area of Ranjit Sagar Dam Project.

This Court in **RFA-1006-2010 State of Punjab & Ors. vs. Usha Rani (II)** decided on 02.11.2018 has already dealt with the above-said award and allowed the landowners' appeal/cross-objection while dismissing the State appeal. The operative part of the relief clause reads as under:-

“(i) Accordingly, for the first notification dated 30.10.1986, the amounts awarded by the Reference Court do not need any interference on both sides, i.e., the State and the landowners and the appeals and cross-objections are, accordingly, dismissed.

(ii) For the notification dated 27.02.1987, the appeals/cross-objections filed by the landowners are allowed and those of the State are dismissed and the compensation per acre would be as under:

(a) All kinds of Barani land : Rs.35,000/-

(b) Banjar Qadim & Gair Mumkin land: Rs.15,000/-

(c) Gair Mumkin Abadi : Rs.80,000/-

(d) Nehri/Chahi : Rs.40,000/-

(iii) For notification dated 29.06.1989, appropriate enhancement was given except for Gair Mumkin Abadi, for which 5% cumulative enhancement is given for the difference of 2 years to fix the rate @ Rs.88,200/- per acre. Therefore, the amounts awarded by the Reference Court do not need any interference for the landowners, for the other category and the appeals are, accordingly, disposed of.

(iv) For notification dated 22.10.1991, appropriate enhancement was given and therefore, the amounts awarded by the Reference Court do not need any interference on both sides,

i.e., the State and the landowners and the appeals are, accordingly, disposed of.

(v) For notifications dated 06.01.1992/30.01.1992, landowners' appeals/cross-objections are allowed and the State appeals are dismissed and the amount per acre is assessed as under:

(a) All kinds of Barani land : Rs.90,462/-

(b) Banjar Qadim/Jadid : Rs.44,000/-

(c) Gair Mumkin Abadi : Rs.1,60,000/-

(d) Chahi : Rs.1,00,000/-

(vi) For notifications dated 16.03.1994 and 18.03.1994, State appeals are allowed and those of landowners/cross-objectors are disposed of. The amount per acre is assessed as under:

(a) All kinds of Barani land : Rs.99,734/-

(b) Banjar Qadim/Banjar Jadid/Gair Mumkin: Rs.48,540/-

(c) Chahi : Rs.1,10,250/-

(d) Gair Mumkin Abadi : Rs.1,76,400/-

(vii) For notification dated 20.12.1994/23.12.1994, appropriate enhancement was given by award dated 23.02.2000 and therefore, the amount awarded by the said Reference Court does not need any interference and the State as well as landowners' appeals are, accordingly, dismissed against the said award. However, appeals against awards dated 03.10.2002, 21.02.2004 and 05.06.2007 are allowed of the landowners and the landowners will get the same amount as in award dated 23.02.2000.

(viii) For notifications dated 07.08.1995/20.09.1995, the appeals are disposed of. The amount per acre is assessed as under:

(a) All kinds of Barani land : Rs.1,19,600/-

(b) Banjar Qadim : Rs.40,000/-

(c) Gair Mumkin : Rs.30,000/-

(d) Chahi/Abi : Rs.1,30,000/-

(e) Gair Mumkin Abadi : Rs.1,50,000/-

Resultantly, the State appeals are allowed and the Reference Courts awards dated 29.11.2000 and 13.12.2000 are

set aside along with awards dated 16.05.2007, 05.10.2007, 08.10.2007, 17.01.2008, 16.02.2008, 05.04.2008, 02.06.2008, 18.08.2008, 29.08.2011, 01.11.2013, 13.11.2013, 01.02.2014 & 12.11.2014, whereby Rs.1600/- to Rs.1830/- per marla had been awarded. Similarly, the appeals of the landowners are allowed by modifying the awards dated 08.11.2001, 04.12.2002, 02.01.2003, 07.06.2003, 04.09.2003, 10.09.2003, 16.12.2003, 15.02.2005, 30.07.2005, and are disposed of accordingly.

(ix) For notifications dated 17.09.1998, State appeals are allowed.

(x) In RFA-2168 & 3806-1998 and other similarly situated appeals, landowners would not be denied interest on the basis that references were dismissed in default and thereafter, restored after considerable period, in view of the discussion made above that on account of the fault of the Court, it would not harm the party.

(xi) With the appeals and Cross-objections having been decided, all misc. applications in which no separate orders have been passed, also stand disposed of.

(xii) Apart from the above, landowners whose land is falling in the following 8 villages, shall also be entitled for the benefit of additional 20%, over and above the compensation awarded to them, on account of they being forced to shift their residence from the said villages: (a) Darkua Bangla Khas, (b) Tikka Godwan, (c) Phangota Khas, (d) Tikka Gulial, (e) Tikka Kattal, (f) Tikka Shamlat, (g) Tikka Ladhwal and (h) Chakbela.

*(xiii) The State shall also comply with the directions laid down by the Apex Court in **Pran Sukh's case** (supra), to ensure that the landowners are not fleeced by the middleman, which read as under:*

(a) The Land Acquisition Collector shall depute officers subordinate to him not below the rank of Naib Tahsildar, who shall get in touch with all the land owners and/or

their legal representatives and inform them about their entitlement and right to receive enhanced compensation.

(b) The concerned officers shall also instruct the land owners and/or their legal representatives to open savings bank account in case they already do not have such account.

(c) The bank account numbers of the land owners should be given to the Land Acquisition Collector within three months.

(d) The Land Acquisition Collector shall deposit the cheques of compensation in the bank accounts of the land owners.

(xiv) The entitlement of the landowners would be to the amounts awarded above along with statutory benefits. The State would also be entitled to make adjustment of the amounts which have already been paid during the litigation.”

Keeping in view the above, the present appeals are also disposed of in the above-reproduced terms.

Ordered accordingly.

24.05.2019

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(G.S. Sandhawalia)
Judge

- 1. Whether speaking/reasoned?*
- 2. Whether reportable?*

Yes/No
Yes/No