

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

**917 CIVIL APPLICATION NO.9342 OF 2019
IN FAST/21234/2019**

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA, THROUGH THE COLLECTOR,
OSMANABAD AND ORS
VERSUS
RAMCHANDRA SAHEBRAO LAKAL

...
WITH CA/9344/2019 IN FAST/21445/2019

...
AGP for Applicants-State Authorities : Mr.R.B.Bagul
Advocate for Respondents : Ramesh V. Naiknaware

...
CORAM : K.K.SONAWANE, J.

DATE: 30th January, 2020

PER COURT:-

1. Heard learned AGP for the applicants-State Authorities and learned counsel for the respondents-original claimants.
2. Applicants moved the present applications for condonation of delay caused in filing the first appeals against impugned Judgment and Award passed by the learned Reference Court in Land Acquisition References filed under section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. According to learned AGP for the applicants-State Authorities, impugned Judgment and Award passed by the Reference Court is erroneous, illegal and is not as per the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894. After procuring the funds for court fees appeals came to be filed, however, there is delay in filing the appeals. According to learned AGP for applicants-State Authorities, delay so caused is not intentional or deliberate, but caused due to compliance of official process.
3. Learned counsel for the respondents-original claimants submits that there is inordinate delay, which has not been explained satisfactorily, therefore, the same cannot be condoned and prayed for rejection of applications.

4. I have given anxious consideration to the submissions advanced by learned AGP for the applicants-State Authorities and learned counsel for the respondents-original claimants. Considering the nature of the subject-matter and reasons mentioned in the applications, I do not find any impediment to allow the applications for condonation of delay. The public interest is involved into the matter. *It is settled law that liberal and pragmatic approach is essential to be adopted by avoiding pedantic approach while dealing with the application for consideration of delay. Therefore, it is imperative to grant some sort of latitude to the applicants-State Authorities to present appeals by condoning the delay. It would not cause any prejudice or injustice to the respondents.* In contrast, it would sub-serve the purpose of substantial justice. Hence, the applications for condonation of delay deserve to be allowed. In sequel, the applications stand allowed in terms of prayer clause (B). Delay caused in filing appeals against the impugned Judgment and Award is hereby condoned. Registry to take requisite steps for registration of appeals. Civil applications stand disposed of accordingly.

5. On registration of appeals, issue notice to the respondents-original claimants. Mr.R.V.Naiknavare, learned counsel waives service of notice for the respondents-original claimants.

6. Meanwhile, call for record and proceeding from the concerned learned Reference Court.

7. List the appeals for admission in due course.

**(K.K.SONAWANE)
JUDGE**

SPT