

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

**25 CIVIL APPLICATION NO.3924 OF 2018
IN FAST/23152/2017
WITH CA/3926/2018 IN FAST/23177/2017
WITH CA/3929/2018 IN FAST/23174/2017
WITH CA/3931/2018 IN FAST/23183/2017
WITH CA/3933/2018 IN FAST/23180/2017
WITH CA/3935/2018 IN FAST/23171/2017**

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND ANR
VERSUS
JEEVAN SHRIPATI RANKHAMB ADN ORS.

...
AGP for Applicant-State : Mr.R.B.Bagul

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

DATE: 13th January, 2020

PER COURT:-

1. Heard learned AGP for the applicant-State. Despite service of notice, no one else appeared on behalf of respondents-claimants.
2. Applicants moved the present applications for condonation of delay 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 applicant-State, 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 applicant, delay so caused is not intentional or deliberate, but caused due to compliance of official process.

3. I have given anxious consideration to the submissions advanced by learned AGP. 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 applicant - Acquiring Body to present an appeal by condoning the delay. It would not cause any prejudice or injustice to the respondent.* 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.

4. On registration of appeals, issue notice to the respondents.

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

6. List the appeals for admission in due course.

(K.K.SONAWANE)
JUDGE

SPT