

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

926 CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 2000 OF 2020
IN FAST/40915/2019

G.M.I.D.C., AURANGABAD THR THE EX. ENGINEER, MINOR
IRRIGATION DIVISION, JALNA
VERSUS
BHIMA LAXMAN GAIKWAD AND ORS

...
Advocate for Applicant : Mr. R.D. Biradar
AGP for Respondents-State Authorities : Mr. S.N. Morampalle
Advocate for Respondent/s-Claimants : Mr. V.M. Humbe

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

DATED : 18th FEBRUARY, 2020.

ORDER :-

1. Issue notice to respondents. Learned AGP waives service of notice on behalf of State authorities whereas Mr. Humbe, learned counsel waives service of notice for respondent/s-original claimant/s.
2. Heard learned counsel for the applicant - Acquiring Body as well as learned AGP for respondents-State authorities and learned counsel for respondent - original claimant.
3. The applicant - Acquiring Body moved the present application for condonation of delay in filing the first appeal 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 counsel for the applicant-Acquiring Body, impugned Judgment and Award passed by the Reference Court is erroneous, illegal and is not as per the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Applicant is Body corporate having its independent entity. After procuring the funds for court fees appeal came to be filed, however, there is delay in filing the appeal. According to learned counsel for applicant, delay so caused is not intentional or deliberate, but caused due to compliance of official process.

4. The learned AGP for respondents-State Authorities and learned counsel for respondent-original claimant submit that there is inordinate delay, which has not been explained satisfactorily, therefore, the same cannot be condoned and prayed for rejection of application.

5. I have given anxious consideration to the submission of both learned counsel. Considering the nature of the subject-matter and reasons mentioned in the application, I do not find any impediment to allow the application 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 deserves to be allowed. In sequel, the application stands allowed in terms of prayer clause (B). Delay caused in filing appeal against the impugned Judgment and Award is hereby condoned. Registry to take requisite steps for registration of appeal. Civil applications stand disposed of accordingly.

6. On registration of appeal, issue notice to the respondents. Mr. Humbe, learned counsel waives service of notice for respondent-original claimant and learned AGP waives service of notice for respondents-State Authorities.

7. Meanwhile, call for record and proceedings from the concerned learned Reference Court.

8. List the appeal for admission on 31-03-2020.

[K. K. SONAWANE]
JUDGE