

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

FIRST APPEAL NO. 462 OF 2004

The State of Maharashtra
Through Collector, Osmanabad

.. Appellant
(Original Respondent)

Versus

Vishwanath S/o Babaji Khose,
Age: 60 years, Occu. Agril.,
R/o: Lanjeshwar, Tq. Bhoom,
Dist. Osmanabad

.. Respondent
(Original Claimant)

...
Mr. S.S. Dande, AGP for Appellant-State
Respondent - Served

...

CORAM : ANIL S. KILOR, J.
DATE : 5th MAY, 2021

ORAL ORDER :-

The present Appeal is arising out of the Judgment and Award dated 23-04-2002 passed in Land Acquisition Reference No. 296 of 1997 by the learned Reference Court, enhancing the amount of compensation for the acquired lands.

2. The lands-in-question are acquired for the purpose of Dokewadi Medium Project of Lanjeshwar, Taluka Bhoom, District Osmanabad. The notification under Section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, was issued on 13-01-1992. Thereafter, the Award was passed on 28-02-1996. Feeling dis-satisfied with the amount of compensation granted by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, a Reference was preferred under Section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, in which, the amount has been enhanced to the tune of Rs.1000/- per R from Rs.400/- per R. The said Judgment and Award is under challenge in this Appeal.

3. I have heard the learned AGP for the appellant-State of Maharashtra. Despite service of notice, no appearance is caused on behalf of respondent-claimant.

4. The only ground challenging the impugned Judgment and Award is that, the amount granted by the learned Reference Court is exorbitant. It is pointed out that the interest under Section 28 of the L.A. Act ought to have granted from the date of Award but has been granted from the date of notification under Section 4 of the L. A. Act, contrary to Judgment of the Full Bench of this Court in a case of ***State of Maharashtra Versus Kailash Shiva Rangari***¹.

5. To consider the contentions of the learned AGP, I have gone through the record and proceedings and also the impugned Judgment and Award.

6. After going through the Judgment and Award, it is revealed that the learned Reference Court has scrutinized the oral as well as documentary evidence available on record in detail, while determining the market value. The learned Reference Court has also considered the relevant factors which are to be taken into consideration as per the well settled principles of law, while arriving at a just and fair compensation.

7. The learned Reference Court while determining the amount of compensation considered the evidence of claimant and its witness Ambadas Deshmukh and after considering the location of lands-in-question and land involved in the sale-deed, arrived at the conclusion that market price of the lands-in-question must not be less than Rs.40,000/- per Acre. The learned Reference Court has considered 'E' Statement of the Award at Exhibit-17, sale deed at Exhibit-15 and Index-II Register at Exhibit-22. Thus, the Reference Court has rightly arrived at the conclusion and awarded amount of compensation at Rs.40,000/- per Acre.

1 2016(4) ALL MR 513 (FB.)

8. Nothing has been brought on record by the appellant in this matter to show contrary or to show perversity in the findings recorded by the learned Reference Court. In that view of the matter, I do not find any merit in the present matter.

9. Moreover, in view of the Government policy not to file or to contest appeal in the matter wherein the amount awarded by the learned Reference Court is not more than four times than the amount awarded by SLAO, as per Government Resolution dated 03-11-2016 and subsequent corrigendum dated 23-02-2017 issued in that regard, I am of the view that on this count also the appeal needs to be dismissed.

10. However, in view of the Judgment of Full Bench in *State of Maharashtra Versus Kailash Shiva Rangari (supra)*, operative part of the impugned Judgment and Award needs to be modified and the interest awarded by learned Reference Court 'from the date of taking possession of the land' needs to be granted 'from the date of Award'.

11. Accordingly, the present Appeal is partly allowed as under :

ORDER

- (I) The appeal is partly allowed.
- (II) The clause (4) in regard to awarding of interest, in the operative part of the impugned Judgment and Award, passed by the Reference Court is modified, and, it is held that the claimant is entitled for the interest under Section 28 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, from the date of Award. For the first year, the interest would be @ 9% per annum and for the subsequent period, it would be @ 15% per annum till realization of the entire amount of the Award.
- (III) No order as to costs.

(ANIL S. KILOR)
JUDGE

mtk