

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
NAGPUR BENCH : NAGPUR

CIVIL APPLICATION (F) NO. 1704 OF 2022

IN

FIRST APPEAL STAMP NO. 1461 OF 2022

Rameshchandra Dharamdas Lachure_ Vs. _ The State of Maharashtra and ors

Office Notes, Office Memoranda of Coram,
appearances, Court's orders of directions
and Registrar's orders

Court's or Judge's orders

Mr. V.N.Patre, Advocate for applicant/appellant
Mrs. M.Deshmukh, AGP for Respondent Nos. 1 to 3

CORAM : AVINASH G. GHAROTE, J.

DATE : 21/11/2022

Civil Application (F) No. 1704/2022 seeks condonation of delay of 406 days caused in filing the first appeal. Though, Mr. Patre, learned counsel for the appellant states that he has instructions from the appellant to make the statement that the appellant shall not claim interest for the period of delay, the Hon'ble Apex Court in *New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Vs. Rameshwar @ Ramesh Chandra Sharma (Dead) Through Legal Heir and another, 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1599*, has held as under :-

“10. However, at the same time the acquiring body and the beneficiary of acquisition shall not be saddled with the liability of statutory benefits and the interest which may be available under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for the delayed period. In the present case the delay of 22 years can be said to be a substantial delay. However, as the claimants are held to be entitled the enhanced amount of compensation, in the facts and circumstances of the case, the High Court can be

said to be justified in condoning the delay. However, at the same time, the High Court has erred in awarding other statutory benefits and interest for the delayed period. To saddle with the liability to pay statutory benefits and interest for the delayed period upon the beneficiary/acquiring body would be a financial burden upon the public body and it may increase the project cost which shall be against the public interests. It cannot be disputed that the liability towards the statutory benefits and the interest under the Act, 1984 would be a huge liability considering the interest at the rate of 15% per annum, solatium, price rise etc. Therefore, while condoning the delay and enhancing the amount of compensation at par with other land owners, the High Court ought not to have saddled the liability upon the appellant to pay statutory benefits and the interest payable under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for the delayed period. To the aforesaid extent the impugned common judgment and order passed by the High Court is required to be modified and the present appeals are required to be partly allowed to the aforesaid extent.

11. In view of the above and for the reasons stated above all these Appeals Succeed in part. The impugned common judgment and order passed by the High Court passed in respective appeals is hereby partly allowed to the aforesaid extent denying the statutory benefits and the interest which may be payable under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for the period between the judgment and award passed by the Reference Court i.e. 15.12.1993 till the respective first appeals were filed after curing the defects. Meaning thereby the original land owners/claimants shall not be entitled to any statutory benefits including the interest payable under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 on the enhanced amount of compensation for the period between 15.12.1993 till the respective first appeals after curing the defects were filed.”

2. In view of the above, the delay is condoned subject to the condition that the original land owners/claimant (appellant herein) shall not be entitled

to any statutory benefits including the interest payable under the Land Acquisition Act on the enhanced amount of compensation for the period of delay. The civil application is accordingly allowed, subject to what is stated above.

3] Office to register the appeal.

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1] **Admit.**

2] Learned AGP waives notice for all Respondents.

3] Call R & P

4] Mr. Patre, learned counsel for the applicant/appellant undertakes to file private paper book along with all exhibited documents within four weeks.

JUDGE

Rvjalit