

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF BOMBAY  
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 4275 OF 2020 IN  
FIRST APPEAL ST. NO. 6050 OF 2019

Maroti Govinrao Waghmare

Applicant

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & others

Respondents

Mr. A. D. Hande, Advocate for the applicant.

Mr. M. M. Nerlikar, AGP for respondents No. 1 and 2.

Ms. Sarita Gaikwad, Advocate for respondent No. 3.

**CORAM : R. M. JOSHI, J.**

**DATE : 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023.**

PER COURT :

1. This is an application for condonation of delay of 2706 days occurred in filing the first appeal.

2. Heard learned counsel for the applicant, learned AGP for respondents No. 1 and 2 and learned counsel for respondent No. 3/acquiring body.

3. It is the contention of the claimant/applicant that due to financial difficulties, the appeal for enhancement of compensation could not be filed in time. The other difficulties faced by him which

were the cause for non-filing of the present appeal in time are elaborated in the application.

4. Learned advocate for the applicant submits that other appeals arising from the same acquisition are pending and in the facts of the case and in the interest of justice, delay caused in filing the appeal be condoned. The said contention is opposed by learned counsel for the acquiring body.

5. It is settled position of law by the orders passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court that in case of land acquisition cases, the Court cannot take pedantic approach for condonation of delay and substantive rights of land owners cannot be allowed to be defeated on technical grounds. In this regard reference can be made to the judgments in the matter of Dhiraj Singh vs. State of Haryana and others reported in (2014) 14 SCC 127 and Imratlal and others vs. Land Acquisition, Collector, and others reported in (2014) 14 SCC 133.

6. In a case where there is compulsory acquisition of the land, the claimant is entitled to receive adequate compensation. If he

is aggrieved by the order passed by any authority, he has a right to prefer appeal against such order and to seek enhancement in accordance with law. This right cannot be denied on technicalities. The applicant herein has provided reason for not preferring appeal in time, which in absence of any malafides deserves to be accepted. However, at the same time, appellant cannot be allowed to take advantage of the delay and respondents cannot be burdened with liability to pay interest on enhanced amount for the said period. In the circumstances, equity can be balanced by denying any amount of interest to the claimant on enhanced compensation, if any, till the date of filing of appeal. Hence the order :-

**ORDER**

- i) Application is allowed.
- ii) Delay of 2706 days caused in preferring appeal stands condoned.
- iii) Appeal be registered.
- iv) Applicant is not entitled to receive any amount of interest on enhanced compensation upto the date of filing of appeal, if he succeeds in the appeal.
- v) Civil application stands disposed of.

**( R. M. JOSHI )**  
**Judge**

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**CORAM : R. M. JOSHI, J.**

**DATE : 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023.**

PER COURT :

1. Heard.

2. Issue notice to respondents returnable on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Learned AGP waives service of notice on behalf of respondents No. 1 and 2. Learned counsel Ms. Gaikwad waives service of notice on behalf of respondent No. 3/acquiring body.

**( R. M. JOSHI )**  
**Judge**