

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE OF BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD

CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 5239 OF 2020 IN
FIRST APPEAL ST. NO. 11540 OF 2019

Ramesh Narayan Chaudhari

Applicant

Versus

Special Land Acquisition Officer, Jalgaon
& another

Respondents

Mr. A.B. Kale, Advocate for the applicant.
Mr. S. D. Ghayal, AGP for respondent No. 1.

CORAM : R. M. JOSHI, J.
DATE : 15th FEBRUARY, 2023.

PER COURT :

1. This is an application for condonation of delay of 1477 days occurred in filing the first appeal.
2. Heard learned counsel for the applicant and learned AGP for respondent No. 1. None appears for respondent No. 2/acquiring body. This shows that the said respondent is not serious for opposing the application.
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 submitted that in the facts of the case and in the interest of justice, delay caused in filing the appeal be condoned. The said contention is strongly opposed by learned AGP.

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 1477 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

dyb

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1. Heard.
2. Issue notice to respondents returnable on 15th March, 2023. Learned AGP waives service of notice on behalf of respondent No. 1.

(R. M. JOSHI)
Judge