

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.17270 of 2016

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Pankaj Kumar Son of Late Madan Prasad, Resident of Village- Harpur, Tola-
Birwa, P.O.- Birwa, Police Station- Majhaulia, District- West Champaran
Bettiah.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State Of Bihar
2. The Collector, West Champaran, Bettiah.
3. The Deputy Collector, Land Reforms, West Champaran, Bettiah.
4. Smt. Tara Devi Wife of Late Harendra Tiwari.
5. Renu Kumari daughter of Late Harendra Tiwari
6. Satyendra Kumar Son of Late Harendra Tiwari
7. Memu Kumari
8. Reema Kumari
9. Bijendra Kumar
10. Shailendra Kumar 7 to10 Guradianship of their mother Smt. Tara Devi,
11. Mahendra Tiwari, Son of Late Ramlagan Tiwari
12. Ramadhar Prasad Son of Late Sheo Shankar Prasad
13. Manoj Kumar Son of Ramadhar Prasad, All are resident of Village- Harpur,
Tola- Birwa, P.O. Birwa, P.S. Majhaulia, District- West Champaran Bettiah.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Lokesh Kumar Singh, Advocate
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Raj Kishore Roy, GP-18

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**CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RUDRA PRAKASH
MISHRA**

ORAL JUDGMENT

Date : 30-09-2024

Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and
learned counsel for the respondents.

2. In the instant application, the petitioner has prayed
for the following reliefs:

“ 1. That the instant writ petition is



being filed on behalf of the petitioner above named for issuance of an appropriate writ/order/ direction for quashing the order dated 11.05.2016 passed by the Hon'ble Justice Smt. Mridula Mishra, Chairman, The Bihar Land Tribunal, Patna in B.L.T. Case No. 450 of 2015 whereby and whereunder the Hon'ble Chairman has affirmed the order dated 06.01.2015 passed by the learned Commissioner, Tirhut Division, Muzaffarpur in Pre-emption Revision No. 85 of 2008 as well as the order dated 08.09.2008 passed in Pre-emption Appeal Case No. (R.M.Case No.)19 of 2005-06 by the learned Collector, West Champaran, Bettiah.”

3. At the outset, it is submitted by learned counsel for the respondents-State that in view of the Bihar Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) (Amendment) Act, 2019 read with judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***Punyadeo Sharma and Ors. Versus Kamla Devi and Ors.*** reported in **2022(1) BLJ 434 (SC)**, the instant application which arises out of pre-emption application stands abated.

4. Relevant paragraphs of the aforesaid judgment in the case of ***Punyadeo Sharma*** (supra) is quoted hereinbelow:



“4. The question examined by the Division Bench of the High Court was whether an application for pre-emption was filed within three months of the registration as required by Section 16(3) of the Act or was it required to be filed within three months of the day of execution of the sale deed i.e. 9.2.1990. However, the said question does not survive for consideration in view of the subsequent development whereby the right of pre-emption itself has been taken away by the Bihar Act No. 6 of 2019 when the Act was amended. The Amending Act reads thus:

"The Bihar Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) (Amendment) Act, 2019

1. Short title, Extent and Commencement. -

(1) This Act may be called The Bihar Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling Area and Acquisition of Surplus Land) (Amendment) Act, 2019.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Bihar.

(3) It shall come into force immediately.

2. Amendment in Section 16 of the Act, 1961.-

(1) Sub Section (3) of Section-16 of the said Act is hereby repealed.

(2) In the Section-16 of the said Act, the



following new sub section-(4) shall be added:-

(4)(i) After the repeal of sub section-(3) of Section-16 of this Act, all cases or proceedings pending before the State Government, the Board of Revenue, the Bihar Land Tribunal, the Divisional Commissioner, the Collector, the Additional Collector, the Deputy Collector Land Reforms or in any other Court, shall be deemed to be abated.

(ii) Pursuant to the repeal of Sub section-(3) of Section-16 of this Act, any purchase money together with a sum equal to 10% thereof, already legally deposited shall be refunded, without any interest, to the depositor.

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7. We have heard the learned counsel for the parties and find that the right of pre-emption, after the Amending Act, abates as Sub-section 4(i) is specifically dealing with all pending proceedings before whatsoever forum. Therefore, the right of pre-emption will stand abated on and after 25.2.2019 including the proceedings which were pending before any forum.

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...12. Any other Court is wide enough to include the Constitutional



Courts i.e. the High Court and the Supreme Court.....

Thus, keeping in view the object of the Statute, purpose to be achieved and the express language of the Amending Act, all proceedings of pre-emption under the Act pending before any authority under the Act or before any Court shall stand abated.

13. Consequently, the present appeals are allowed. The entire pre-emption proceedings stand abated. It shall be open to the respondents to withdraw 10% of the amount deposited by them in terms of Section 16 of the Act in accordance with law." (Emphasis Supplied)

5. In view of the above, it is ordered that the instant application stands abated and accordingly disposed of.

6. It is further directed that in terms of the aforesaid order, it shall be open to the pre-emptor herein to withdraw the amount deposited by him in terms of section 16 of the Act in accordance with law.

(Rudra Prakash Mishra, J)

Raj Kishore/-

AFR/NAFR	NAFR
CAV DATE	N/A
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