

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.16414 of 2016

Most. Manju Devi wife of late Janardan Giri resident of village - Pipra Tola
Kathua, P.O. - Pipra, P.S. - Jogbani, District - Araria.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar
2. The Divisional Commissioner, Purnea.
3. The District Magistrate-cum-Collector, Araria.
4. The Deputy Collector Land Reforms, Forbesganj, Araria.
5. Shankar Prasad Mandal son of Hari Lal Mandal resident of village - Kathua,
P.O. - Pipra, P.S. - Jogbani, District Araria.

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s	:	Mr. Bidhanesh Misra, Adv.
For the Respondent/s	:	Mr. Rishi Raj Sinha- SC19 Mr. Saurabh Kumar, AC to SC19

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RUDRA PRAKASH MISHRA
ORAL ORDER

4 03-09-2024 Heard learned counsel for the parties.

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

“1. For quashing the order dated 31.3.2016 passed by Hon'ble Chairman, Bihar Land Tribunal in BLT Case No. 545/2013 whereby and whereunder the order dated 27.2.2002 passed by DCLR, Forbesganj in Case no. 01 of 2000-01, appellate order dated 1.8.2007 passed by the District Magistrate cum Collector in Appeal Case No. 16 of 2002-03 and 37 of 2005-07 and order dated 12.12.2007 passed by the Divisional Commissioner, Purnea in Ceiling Revision Case No. 32 of 2007-08 have been set aside.”

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, 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 her in terms of section 16 of the Act in accordance with law.

(Rudra Prakash Mishra, J)

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