

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.1349 of 2015

Dr. Khurshid Alam Son of late Md. Yusuf, Resident of Village Rashidpur, P.S.
Akbar Nagar, District Bhagalpur.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State Of Bihar
2. The Commissioner, Bhagalpur, Divisional, Bhagalpur.
3. Additional Collector, Bhagalpur.
4. The Deputy Collector, Land Reforms, Bhagalpur.
5. Smt. Soma Pathak Wife of Sri kant Pathak, Resident of Village Sahkund, P.S.
Sahkund, District Bhagalpur.
6. Sri Ram Rajeshwar Bhagat.
7. Janki Nandan Bhagat
8. Shyam Sunder Bhagat All sons of Late Sita Saran Bhagat.
9. Pankaj Kumar Bhagat Son of Ram Rajeshwar Bhagat All Residents of
Mohalla Goldar Patti, P.O and P.S Nath Nagar, District Bhagalpur.

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s	:	Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Advocate
For the Respondent/s	:	Mr. Ravi Kumar AC to GP-13 Mr. Akshay Lal Prasad, AC to GP-13

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

ORAL JUDGMENT

Date : 08-08-2024

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

2. In the instant application, the petitioners have
prayed for the following reliefs:

*“1. That this is an application for
issuance of Writ in the nature of Certiorari
or in the nature of Mandamus, or any other
Writ or Writs, order/direction for setting*



aside the order dated 17-11-2014 passed by the Hon'ble Bihar Land Tribunal, Patna in B.L.T. Case No. 52 of 2013 (Annexure-1)."

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.

.....
 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.

.....
 ...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.

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.

7. The application stands disposed of as having abated.

(Rudra Prakash Mishra, J)

Raj Kishore/-

AFR/NAFR	NAFR
CAV DATE	N/A
Uploading Date	10-08-2024.
Transmission Date	N/A

