

requirement of appearing before the learned Reference Court has not been met, the present proceedings arise out of Section 18 of the 1894 Act which is beneficial in nature involving substantial & valuable rights against compulsory acquisition of land. Procedure is handmaidens of justice thus, the appellants-landowners were required to be afforded opportunity by not taking a hypertechnical approach.

3. Accordingly, the order dated 02.09.1996 passed by the ld. Reference Court is hereby set aside.

3.1 At this stage, instead of remanding the matter to the ld. Reference Court for its adjudication on merits, it would be appropriate and practicable to dispose of the present appeal here only as the learned counsel for the parties are *ad idem* that this Court vide decision dated 13.05.1999 passed in **RFA-944-1998**, in case “**Suraj Bhan v. State of Haryana**” in relation to the same acquisition proceedings has determined the market value @ Rs.212/- per sq. yard. Accordingly, the present appeal is disposed of in the aforesaid terms. The appellants-landowners shall also be entitled for all other statutory benefits and interest including interest on solatium.

4. Pending application, if any, stands disposed of.

27.10.2025

sonika

(HARKESH MANUJA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:
Whether reportable:

Yes/No
Yes/ No