

Supreme Court of India

The State Of West Bengal vs Lohit Kumar Roy on 24 July, 1996

Equivalent citations: 1996 SCALE (5)543

Author: K Ramaswamy

Bench: Ramaswamy, K.

PETITIONER:

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL

Vs.

RESPONDENT:

LOHIT KUMAR ROY

DATE OF JUDGMENT: 24/07/1996

BENCH:

RAMASWAMY, K.

BENCH:

RAMASWAMY, K.

G.B. PATTANAIK (J)

CITATION:

1996 SCALE (5)543

ACT:

HEADNOTE:

JUDGMENT:

O R D E R Notification under Section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 [for short, the "Act"] initially was published on May 25, 1956 acquiring a huge extent of 985.95 acres of land for industrial purpose in Durgapur. It would appear that subsequently the notification got lapsed. Consequently, the second notification came to be published on August 10, 1964. The Land Acquisition Officer determined the compensation @ Rs.2,310/- per acre. In this case, we are concerned with the extent of the lands in 5 plots Sri in survey Nos.710, 735, 762, 824 and 912 of an extent of 0.33, 0.11, 0.63, 0.13 and 0.49 acres respectively. The reference Court enhanced the compensation Rs.1,45,000/- per acre relying upon Ext. 1(d) dated April 24, 1964. It is settled law that the similar lands were of large extent involved for acquisition and or evidence relied upon, even the High Court has doubted the genuineness of this document. It is scated by the learned counsel for the appellant that this document came to be executed between the parties who are claiming higher compensation. It would be obvious that after the first notification was issued and before the second notification came to be published this document was brought into existence to inflate the market value. Under these circumstances, the High Court in another case was well justified in doubting the correctness of it.

Unfortunately, except that document, there is no other evidence for enhancement of the compensation. But in view of the fact that large extent of the lands are involved and we do not have the advantage of any other evidence or assistance from respondents, we are not inclined to confirm the award of the Collector. under these circumstances, we set aside the award or the Court and the High Court and remit the matter to the reference Court to decide the compensation afresh on the basis of the evidence vis-a-vis any other reference pending before it having similar facts and decide the matter according to law.

The appeal is accordingly allowed, but, in the circumstances, without costs.