

Supreme Court of India

The Special Land Acquisition ... vs P.M. Mallappa & Ors on 14 March, 1997

Bench: K. Ramaswamy, G.T. Nanavati

PETITIONER:

THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER, KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

Vs.

RESPONDENT:

P.M. MALLAPPA & ORS.

DATE OF JUDGMENT: 14/03/1997

BENCH:

K. RAMASWAMY, G.T. NANAVATI

ACT:

HEADNOTE:

JUDGMENT:

O R D E R Notice on other respondents has been served. They are not appearing either in person or through counsel. Delay condoned. S.R. Bhatt appears for one respondent in one appeal.

Leave granted These appeals, by special leave, arise from the judgment of the Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court, dated December 22, 1995 made in M.F.A. Nos. 2688/88 and batch.

Notification under section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act (for Short, the 'Act') acquiring a large extent of land was published on March 25, 1971. The Land acquisition Officer in ..... award granted compensation at the rate of Rs. 8,000/- per acre for the dry lands with which we are not concerned. We are not concerned with other land because there is no appeal in the behalf. On reference under section 18 of the Act, the Civil Court enhanced the compensation to Rs. 15,000/- per acre. The High Court remitted the matter to the reference Court for reconsideration. Thereafter, the reference Court enhanced the compensation to Rs. 38,000/-. On appeal, the High Court by the impugned judgment has enhanced the compensation to Rs. 12/- per sq. yd. which amounts to Rs. 58,000/- per acre. It is seen the since the respondents have not filed any appeal under Section 26 of the Act against the award granting enhanced compensation of Rs. 38,000/- per acre, we do not propose to go into the enhancement granted by the reference Court.

The only question is: whether the High Court would be justified in enhancing the compensation to

Rs. 12/- per sq. yd., in other words, Rs. 58,000/- per acre. Admittedly, the land is dry land and the land Acquisition Officer had pointed out in his award that the converted lands for which he had awarded compensation at the rate of Rs. 9,000/- and Rs. 10,000/- per acre, bear different connotation to the actual dry land existing as on that date. The potential value shall be determined for the land existing as on the date of the notification and not after subsequent developed land bears no relevance to further enhancement of the value. Under these circumstances, the High Court has wholly incorrect in enhancing the compensation to Rs. 12/- per sq. yd., i.e. Rs. 58,000/- per acre.

The appeals are accordingly allowed and the judgment and order of the High Court stand set aside and that of the reference Court stands confirmed. No. Costs.