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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 8178/2018

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. N.S. Dalal, Mr. Pratap Singh, Ms.
Rachana Dalal and Ms. Sweta,
Advocates

versus

LAND AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND ANR

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Naginder Benipal, Panel Counsel
and Ms. Harithi Kambiri, Advocate
for R-1.

Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Advocate
for R-2/DDA.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE CHANDRA DHARI SINGH

ORDER

02.08.2022

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1. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Respondent No. 1 has informed this Court that despite addressing several representations to the Vice Chairman, DDA, he has not bothered to reply to the Secretary (Land and Building). It is further informed to this Court that the application pending before the Respondent No. 1 could not be decided due to non-cooperation of DDA.

2. Mr. N.S. Dalal, learned counsel appearing on behalf of Petitioner has taken serious objection to the statement made on behalf of Respondent No. 1 and submitted that the application in question was moved in the year 1987,

yet till date no action has been taken upon the same by the Department. It is submitted that the poor farmer has approached this Court making an innocuous prayer that a direction may be issued to the concerned authority to decide the application.

3. Heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the application filed by the petitioner as well as the averments made in the petition.

4. It is a sad state of affairs and travesty of justice that representations of the ordinary citizen of this country have been reduced to mere pieces of paper and the system moves on, in its usual snail speed, being least bothered about their grievances. Consequently, these applications remain stacked in files for decades and decades.

5. It is also disturbing to state that such an approach adopted by the concerned officers, and their failure to discharge their duty has led to filing of a plethora of petitions before the High Courts across the country, thereby, adding to the pendency and backlog of cases as well as burdening the judiciary.

6. In the instant case, as is evident from the record, the application was filed before the authorities way back in 1987. Since then, 35 years have passed but no action, whatsoever, has been taken by the concerned officials till date.

7. Learned counsel appearing on the behalf of Respondent No. 2 (DDA) has been unable to satisfactorily reply to the query of the Court, as to why and under what circumstances the Vice Chairman, DDA has not yet been able to respond to the request made by the Secretary (Land and Building).

8. It is with deep regret that this Court has to remark that the conduct of the concerned authority is nothing but appalling. Poor citizens of this

country cannot be left at the mercy of such a system and their rights cannot be kept in abeyance, while their representations keep languishing for decades together, to be decided only at the sweet will of the officials. It is high time that such a lackadaisical approach be shunned away and buried nine fathoms deep.

9. The Respondents are accordingly directed to dispose the pending application of the Petitioner within 15 days from today, i.e., on or before 17th August 2022, failing which, the concerned officials of both the respondents shall be present before this Court on the next date of hearing.

10. List on 12th September, 2022 for further directions.

CHANDRA DHARI SINGH, J

AUGUST 2, 2022

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