115 CWP-11921-2023

DARSHAN SINGH AND OTHERS VS UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS

Present: Mr. C.S. Bagri, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Chetan Mittal, Senior Advocate with Mr. Abhilaksh Gaind, Advocate, Mr. Rakesh Roy, Advocate and Mr. Mayank Aggarwal, Advocate for respondents no.3 to 5 - NHAI.

Mr. Sandeep Jain, Additional A.G. Punjab for respondents no.4, 6, 7, 11 and 12.

Mr. Abhilaksh Gaind, Advocate, standing counsel, PPCB with Mr. Rakesh Roy, Advocate for respondent no.9.

Argument raised on behalf of the petitioners *inter-alia* was that residential houses of the petitioners and certain other structures are being demolished without any supplementary award being passed for compensation qua the said structures.

Learned counsel for NHAI (who was on advance notice) on 29.05.2023 was asked to seek instructions in this regard with a commensurate direction to learned counsel for the petitioners to supply descriptive detail of the land on which their residential houses are allegedly raised. Requisite information was supplied by learned counsel for the petitioners to learned counsel for the NHAI today morning itself. Learned counsel for the NHAI in the post lunch session informs that in so far as residential houses are concerned, there is only one residential house of Darshan Singh son of Baldev Singh and the main structure of the house is outside the alignment with only the boundary

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wall falling in the alignment. In respect to the boundary wall concerned, supplementary award has been passed by the competent authority and in so far as other structures tube-well, bore-well etc., which are claimed to be existing by the petitioners, a table has been provided in Court today, detailing that some of the petitioners have not even set up their claim qua the said structures, if any and in other cases, award for the structures stands passed in June/August, 2022. The details as furnished by the petitioners and NHAI are taken on record, subject to just exceptions.

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Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners are not aware of any supplementary award, which has been passed and neither have they received the compensation thereof. Learned counsel for the petitioners, however, seeks to raise other arguments and pleas challenging the very acquisition itself.

Be that as it may, at this stage arguments were addressed qua interim relief. We do not find any ground whatsoever to grant any interim relief at this stage to scuttle the project namely 'Development of Punjab Section of Delhi-Katra Expressway including green field connectivity to Amritsar'.

At request of learned counsel for the petitioners, adjourned to 10.07.2023.

(LISA GILL) JUDGE

(RITU TAGORE) JUDGE

02.06.2023 Sunil