

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY****CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION****CIVIL WRIT PETITION NO. 5480 OF 2026**

Late Anusuya Ganpat Renuse

Through Legal Heirs

... Petitioner

**V/s.**

The State of Maharashtra & Ors.

... Respondents

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Mr. Vishwajit P. Sawant, Senior Advocate a/w Mr. Prabhakar M. Jadhav, Ms. Suchita Chavan and Adv. A.P. Mahadik for Petitioner.

Mr. B.V. Samant, Addl.G.P. for Respondent-State.

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**CORAM : A. S. GADKARI AND  
KAMAL KHATA, JJ.**

**DATE : 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**P.C. :**

1) Most unfortunately, and it is a matter of grave concern, as we find that in land acquisition proceedings and allotment of land under the Maharashtra Project Affected Persons Rehabilitation Act, 1999, lands of farmers are acquired with utmost promptness and enthusiasm however, without considering the provisions of the said Act. Section 11 of the said Act mandates that the authorities must first survey the affected area and select the benefitted zone before acquisition.

2) Despite the statutory provisions, we have come across numerous cases where Rehabilitation Officers, either deliberately or without valid or justifiable reasons, after acquiring their properties and displacing them,

indulge in harassing citizens, by not offering them land in the benefitted zone immediately, thereby forcing them to approach this Court.

3) We have taken note of the aforesaid facts and recorded the bold statement made by the learned counsel for the Petitioner in Writ Petition No. 1231 of 2024, that for the reasons which cannot be spoken openly in Court that such harassment is meted out.

4) In view thereof, we deem it appropriate to bring it to the notice to the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Revenue and Forest, Government of Maharashtra and to direct him to file a detailed reply to the Petition.

4.1) The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Revenue and Forest, shall not delegate its power to any subordinate Officer while filing reply.

4.2) The said reply be filed within a period of six weeks from today.

5) The Additional Chief Secretary to explain as to why the citizens are made to suffer on account of non-implementation of the mandatory provisions under the said Act.

6) Stand over to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026.

7) Till the returnable date, ad-interim relief in terms of prayer clause (d).

( KAMAL KHATA, J. )

( A.S. GADKARI, J. )