

Serial No. 11
Regular List

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU**

WP(C) No. 3014/2023

Bahdur Singh

.....Petitioner

Through: Mr. Shabir Ahmed, Advocate vice
Mr. Irfaan Khan, Advocate

Vs

UT of J&K & Ors.

.....Respondents

Through: Ms. Pallavi Sharma, Assisting Counsel
to Mr. Ravinder Gupta, AAG for R-1, 2 &
4
Ms. Mrinal, Assisting Counsel to
Mrs. Monika Kohli, Sr. AAG for R-3

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAHUL BHARTI, JUDGE
ORDER
(12.11.2025)

- 01.** If the script as set out in the writ petition by the petitioner is to be believed, then the petitioner's ownership of land measuring 6 kanals 4 marlas in Khasra No. 99 situated in village Matlote, Tehsil Thuroo District Reasi has come under appropriation of the Department of PW (R&B), UT of J&K in connection with construction of a suspension bridge over Nalla Ans at Kanthi Matlote without payment of any compensation to the petitioner or for that matter any rental for the use and occupation of the property of the petitioner.
- 02.** One of the documents accompanying the writ petition is a communication of Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B), Division

Reasi to the Collector Land Acquisition, (Sub-Divisional Magistrate), Dharmari stating therein that acquisition of land for construction of 132 meters span foot suspension by over nallah Ans at Jaloo Kanthi Matlote, be prepared as per the indent provided by PWD (R&B), Division Reasi.

- 03.** From the response of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, (SDM), Dharmari on the record of this writ petition, it is forth coming that the revenue related exercise with respect to the intended acquisition was carried out with the submission of report dated 03.03.2021 by Naib Tehsildar, Thuroo to Tehsildar, Thuroo who then forwarded the same to the Collector Land Acquisition (Sub-Divisional Magistrate), Dharmari in April 2021 confirming the fact of intended acquisition of 6 Kanals and 04 Marlas of land in Khasra No. 99 of village Matlote and then forwarding the documents to the Executive Engineer, PWD(R&B), Division Reasi for the purpose of authentication and onward processing but thereafter, nothing was heard from the end of the PWD (R&B), Department rendering the matter in a stalemate and petitioner in the High Court being in 75 years of his age made to run from pillar to post as if begging for charity from the Public Works Department on account of loss of his land for the purpose of construction of bridge in reference.
- 04.** This Court grants last opportunity to the Chief Engineer, PWD(R&B) Department to come forth with reply to the writ

petition under his own signature and affidavit in support thereof, failing which, this Court would be directing the personal appearance of Chief Engineer, PWD(R&B) Department, Jammu on the next date of hearing.

- 05.** In addition, this Court calls upon respondent No. 3-Sub-Divisional Magistrate, (Collector Land Acquisition), Mahore, Thuroo (Reasi) to confirm the fact as to whether the proposed bridge for which the acquisition of land has been intended has been constructed at the site or at still in the stage of construction or it is non-starter. Affidavit to this effect be submitted on the next date of hearing.
- 06.** List again on **03.12.2025**.
- 07.** A copy of this order be provided to Ms. Pallavi Sharma, Assisting Counsel to Mr. Ravinder Gupta, learned Additional Advocate General, appearing for respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 4.

(RAHUL BHARTI)
JUDGE

JAMMU
12.11.2025
SUNIL