

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No.12110-12179/2001  
(From the judgement and order dated 01/03/2000 in CA 674/00etc.  
of The HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD)

ADDL. SPL.LAQ.OFFICER, GUJARAT & ANR.

Petitioner (s)

VERSUS

MANILAL SOMABHAI & ORS.

Respondent (s)

Date : 07/01/2002 This Petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K.T. THOMAS  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.N. PHUKAN

For Petitioner (s) Ms. Sumita Hazarika,Adv.  
Ms. Hemantika Wahi,Adv.

For Respondent (s) Mr. Jatin Zaveri,Adv.  
Mr. Harish J. Jhaveri,Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following  
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.SP2

Leave granted.  
Appeal is disposed of in terms of the signed order.

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(N.K. Goel) (H.K. Bhatia)  
Court Master Court Master  
(Signed order is placed on the file)

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL Nos. 6-75 of 2002@@  
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(Arising out of S.L.P. (Civil) 12110-12179 of 2001)

Addl. Spl. Laq. Officer, Gujarat & Anr. Appellants

Vs.

Manilal Somabhai & Ors.

Respondents

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Leave granted.

Against a Land Acquisition Award passed by a Reference Court the officers under the Land Acquisition Department of the State filed appeals before the High Court. But the appeals were not entertained on the ground of long delay. There was delay of 355 days for which an explanation was offered by the State. But the High Court declined to accept the explanation as sufficient and hence dismissed the application for condonation of delay.

On going through the explanation offered by the officers for the long delay we are also of the opinion that lack of alertness on the part of public officers looms large. Nonetheless we are not disposed to cause public interest to suffer on account of the tardiness shown by the officers

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concerned. We direct the State Government to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent officers who are responsible for the long delay caused.

At the same time we condone the delay involved in filing the appeals and regularise the appeals. The High Court can now dispose of the appeals on merits.

These appeals are disposed of accordingly.

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(K.T. THOMAS)@@  
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(S.N. PHUKAN)@@  
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