

We are further of the view that the writ petition filed by the petitioners in 2008 was highly belated and in the absence of any tangible explanation for the long time gap of three years and nine months between the date of passing of the award and filing of the writ petition and of more than two years between the date of taking over of possession by the respondents and filing of the writ petition and the High Court would have been justified in non-suiting the petitioners on that ground as well. In any case, this Court cannot ignore the long delay in filing of the writ petition questioning acquisition of the land for a public purpose.

With the above observations, the special

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leave petition is dismissed.

(A.D. Sharma)
Court Master

(Phoolan Wati Arora)
Court Master