

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CONTEMPT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 194 OF 2026
IN
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION(CIVIL) NO. 3799 OF 2024

M/S SRI BALAJI CORPORATE
SERVICES & ANR.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

DR. S SELVAKUMAR & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S) /
ALLEGED CONTEMNOR(S)

O R D E R

1. The land of the petitioner was acquired by Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) and handed over to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited for execution of the Metro Project in Bangalore City. The controversy was whether the expropriated land owners are entitled to seek compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 ("2013 Act") even though their land is acquired under the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act, 1966 (KIADA).

2. To avoid undue hardship to the affected land owners, this Court vide interim order dated 09.02.2024 directed that the acquisition proceedings will continue and the Award shall be passed in accordance with the provisions of the 2013 Act. In purported compliance thereto, KIADB passed an alleged award dated 28.11.2022, which, according to the respondents, is in accordance with the provisions of the 2013 Act.

3. The petitioners, however, have contested this claim as, according to them, the award does not meet the statutory requirements of the 2013 Act.

4. Their second grievance is regarding deduction of TDS out of the compensation amount awarded under the afore-stated award.

5. The aggrieved petitioners, at the same time, filed an application seeking reference under Section 64 of the 2013 Act. That application is required to be forwarded by the Land Acquisition Collector-cum-Officer to the jurisdictional Reference Court. However, no such reference has been made so far.

6. In this backdrop, the petitioners have three grievances:

(i) The purported award dated 28.11.2022 is not an award in accordance with the provisions of the 2013 Act;

(ii) Their reference application has not been forwarded to the Reference Court; and

(iii) No TDS could be deducted out of the compensation amount.

Hence, this contempt proceeding has been initiated before us.

7. So far as the first grievance of the petitioners is concerned, this can be effectively addressed by the Reference Court and wherever it is found that provisions of the 2013 Act have not been complied with, the Reference Court is empowered to suitably modify the award in accordance with law.

8. As regards the second grievance, namely, the failure of the Land Acquisition Collector-cum-Officer to forward the reference application for further enhancement of compensation, we see no justification for the Land Acquisition Collector-cum-Officer to sit over such references, especially when almost three years have

passed. We, accordingly, direct the State of Karnataka and its Land Acquisition Collector-cum-Officer as well as KIADB to ensure that the pending applications are immediately forwarded to the jurisdictional Reference Court. The needful shall be done within four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

9. As regards the deduction of TDS, we are of the considered view that since the acquisition is deemed to have been made under the 2013 Act in terms of the earlier interim order passed by this Court, no TDS could be deducted in view of Section 96 of the 2013 Act. The amount deducted towards TDS is, accordingly, directed to be reimbursed to the farmers as early as possible but not later than six weeks.

10. The contempt proceedings are disposed of, in the above terms.

.....CJI.
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

.....J.
(VIPUL M. PANCHOLI)

NEW DELHI;
JULY 21, 2026.

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 3798/2024

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 27-09-2023 in WA No. 892/2022 passed by the High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru]

BANGALORE METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

L.VENKATARAMANA RAJU & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[ONLY CONMT.PET.(C) No. 194/2026 IS LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM]

WITH

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 194/2026 in SLP(C) No. 3799/2024 (IV-A)
(IA No. 86657/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 21-07-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIPUL M. PANCHOLI

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Vaibhav Joshi, AOR

Mr. Gagan Gupta, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Mahesh Thakur, AOR
Mr. Siddhartha Sati, Adv.
Mr. Narveer Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Arpith Jacob Varaprasad, Adv.
Mr. Jasbir Singh, Adv.
Ms. Ruchi Kumari, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Ashwin V. Kotemath, Adv.
Mr. Harisha S.r., AOR

Mr. N. Venkataraman, A.S.G.
Mr. Sudarshan Lamba, AOR
Mr. V.C.bharathi, Adv.
Mr. Shashank Bajpai, Adv.
Mr. Ishan Kapoor, Adv.
Ms. Mrigna Shekhar, Adv.

Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR
Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv.
Mr. Shashwat Jaiswal, Adv.

Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Adv.
Ms. Diksha Arora, Adv.
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Mr. Nishanth Patil, Adv.
Mr. Arijit Dey, Adv.
Mr. Awanish Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Bhumi Agrawal, Adv.

Mr. Shailesh Madiyal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Sudhanshu Prakash, AOR
Ms. Anisha Agarwal, Adv.
Mr. Ishrafil Ansari, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Contempt Petition (Civil) No. 194/2026 in SLP(C) No. 3799/2024

The contempt proceedings are disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DY. REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)