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sarfaesi Act, S. 14 – The SARFAESI Act is intended to facilitate quick recovery of secured debts without extending any opportunity of hearing to a borrower and without judicial/quasi-judicial intervention till such time possession of the secured asset is taken by the secured creditor after serving the requisite notices and responding to the objection/representation that may be lodged/preferred by the borrower under section 13(3A) – Decision by a quasi-judicial authority (see section 17) upon compliance with <u>natural justice</u> stands deferred till such time possession, either symbolic or physical, is taken – The SARFAESI Act does not remotely suggest compliance with natural justice at the stage when section 13(4) or 14 operates – If a borrower has no right of hearing when the secured creditor takes possession under section 13(4), a *fortiori*, no hearing can be demanded by a borrower when he succeeds in resisting possession, and thus compels such officer to work out the remedy by seeking assistance of the District Magistrate/Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, as the case may be, under section 14 – Only a post-possession right to approach the tribunal is conferred on a borrower in terms of section 17, nothing more and nothing less.

CA. MANISHA MEHTA v. ICICI BANK , 2022 SCeJ 0360 (Bom.)

Tags: Sarfaesi S. 14, Sarfaesi S. 17