HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

CRA No. 1344 of 2003

BHOLA PRASAD **versus** STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

15.04.2026	None for the appellant. Ms. Prachi Singh, Panel Lawyer for the State. This Court cannot lose sight of the fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case of **Bhola Mahto vs. The State of Jharkhand** reported in **2026 INSC 257** has directed that before engaging defense counsel, it is expedient for the Courts to inform the accused but in the present case despite all the efforts made by this Court, no one has appeared on behalf of the accused. Therefore, this Court has no option left but to engage a counsel through the High Court Legal Aid Committee. Accordingly, the Secretary, High Court Legal Aid Committee is directed to engage a counsel who is well versed with the criminal law to defend the accused. List this case for further hearing on **12th May, 2026**. **Sd/--** **(Narendra Kumar Vyas)** **JUDGE**

KISHORE KUMAR DESHMUKH
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