



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPC No. 2951 of 2021

Sanjay Kumar Rathore **Versus** South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

Through Its Chairman-Cum-Managing Director (Cmd)

Order Sheet

20/04/2026	Mr. Sanjay Kumar, counsel for the petitioner. Mr. Siddharth Sharma, PL for the State. Mr. Satish Gupta, counsel for respondents No. 1 to 3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner's land has been acquired under the provisions of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957; however, the compensation has been determined by officers of South Eastern Coalfields Limited, which, it is contended, is not in accordance with law. It is further submitted that even

where the land is to be handed over to SECL for the purpose of mining operations, the determination of compensation under the said Act is required to be carried out by the competent Collector acting as the Land Acquisition Officer, and only thereafter is SECL obligated to deposit the assessed amount of compensation in accordance with statutory procedure. Learned counsel further submits that, in view of the issues involved and the statutory framework governing the acquisition, a reply on behalf of the Central Government is necessary for proper adjudication of the matter.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of UOI is directed to file reply within a period of four weeks.

List this case in the month of June, 2026.

Sd/-

(Amitendra Kishore Prasad)
Judge