



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPC No. 2598 of 2026

- Smt. Meera Agrawal, W/o Shri Girdhari Agrawal, Aged About 56 Years, R/o Opposite Tehsil Office, Saraipali, Tehsil Saraipali, District Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh.

... Petitioner

versus

1. State Of Chhattisgarh, Through Its Secretary, Mineral Resources Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. Director Directorate Of Geology And Mining, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. Collector Mahasamund, Collectorate Building, B.T.I. Road, Mahasamund, District Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh.
4. Mining Officer, Mineral Resources Department, Mahasamund, District Mahasamund, Chhattisgarh.

... Respondents

(Cause title taken from Case Information System)

Order Sheet

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| <p>16/06/2026</p> | <p>Mr. Amrito Das, learned Senior counsel assisted by Mr. Yashraj Verma, counsel for the petitioner.</p> <p>Mr. Shobhit Mishra, Deputy G.A. for the State/respondents.</p> <p>Heard.</p> |

Issue notice to the respondents.

State counsel accepts notice on behalf State/respondents, therefore, process fee is not required to be paid.

Also heard on I.A. No.1/2026, application for stay.

Learned Senior counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that without there being any authority, Collector has passed the order dated 20.12.2018 (Annexure-P/3), while imposing the penalty of Rs.21,27,840/-. As the said order cannot be passed by the concerned Collector, but it has to be passed by the competent court. After having receipt of complaint and after taking cognizance on the same, it has been argued that though the appellant has preferred appeals as well as the revisions before the competent authority, this aspect of the matter has not been considered by the concerned authority. Now vide notice dated 17.04.2026, petitioner was directed to deposit a sum of Rs.21,27,840/- as penalty imposed upon him within a period of 7 days. It has been further submitted that the mining activities has already been stopped, therefore, some interim protection may be granted to petitioner.

Learned State counsel vehemently opposes the submission made by the senior counsel for the petitioner and submits that it is a case of illegal excavation of mining and petitioner was awarded land bearing Khasra No.45 and 55 situated at Village Chhattigirola, Tehsil Saraipali, District

Mahasamund (C.G.), however, the petitioner has excavated the limestone from land bearing Khasra No.35. As such no relief can be granted to him and all the orders passed by the respondent authorities are in accordance with law, however, he confirmed that no mining activity is being carried out on the said land. It has been further submitted that petitioner has not annexed relevant documents which are necessary for the adjudication of the case.

In view of the above submissions made by the parties and the facts and circumstances of the case, respondents are directed to file their reply within a period of four weeks, while annexing all the relevant documents, which has not been annexed by the present petitioner.

Petitioner is also at liberty to file rejoinder within a period of two weeks.

Till the next date of hearing '*status quo*' shall be maintained by the parties and further respondent authorities are directed not to take any coercive steps against the petitioner.

List this case in the week commencing 3rd August, 2026.

**Sd/-
(Amitendra Kishore Prasad)
Judge**