



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 62 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST
LITIGATION **versus** STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order-Sheet

09/12/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Dy. Advocate General for the State. This suo motu Public Interest Litigation was registered on the basis of two news reports — the first published in Nav Bharat Times on 13/07/2025 titled “कमर तक पानी, हाथों में छाता, पढ़ाई के लिए ऐसे जान जोखिम में डालते हैं ये छात्र, फिर भी मुस्कुराते हुए जाते हैं स्कूल”, and the second published in The Hitavada (Chhattisgarh) on 14/07/2025 titled “Four children drown in pond”.

Considering the gravity of the issues highlighted, several affidavits were called from time to time. Ultimately, on 22/09/2025, while addressing the matter, this Court directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, to file an affidavit regarding the steps proposed for preparing a revised plan based on the increased HFL and for obtaining necessary administrative approval for construction of the new bridge.

In compliance with the said order, the Chief Secretary has filed an affidavit dated 03/12/2025. The relevant portion of the affidavit is reproduced hereunder:

“4. That, subsequent to filing of the affidavit, the present matter was again taken up by the Hon'ble Court for hearing on 22/09/2025 and after going through the said affidavit, it has been observed by the Hon'ble Court that vide order dated 09/07/2025 the Department of Public Works, Government of Chhattisgarh has accorded an administrative approval for the construction of high level bridge and approach road over the Mandher Naala and for the said work, an amount of Rs. 585.60 lakh has also been sanctioned, but as in the months of July

and August, the region witnessed the excessive rainfall and water level of the Mandher Naala raised to a high and alarming level and it came to the notice of the authorities that the height which has been proposed earlier, needs to be increased as the height which was proposed was on the basis of the Highest Flood Level (in short as HFL) which was 101.110 meter; therefore, now the technical parameters of the proposed bridge needs to be revised in light of the amended HFL which has been taken with 106.60 meter and a revised proposal will be prepared on the basis of the increased HFL and after obtaining necessary administrative approval, the work of new bridge would be started. Observing so, the Hon'ble Court, vide order dated 22/09/2025, was pleased to direct the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur to file a fresh affidavit showing the steps to be taken by the authorities for preparing a revised proposal on the basis of the increased HFL and for obtaining necessary administrative approval for construction of the new bridge.

5. That, the deponent, having the highest regards and great respect for the lawful authority of this Hon'ble Court and its orders

and directions issued from time to time, most humbly and respectfully submits that as in the region Bastar, there were excessive rainfall due to which the water level of the Mandher Naala raised a high and alarming level, therefore, the height of bridge over the Mandher Naala which has been proposed earlier, needed to be increased on the basis of the Highest Flood Level which was earlier 101.110 meters and accordingly the height of the bridge has been revised by proposing it to be 106.60 meters from 101.110 meters and a revised proposal in this regard has been prepared and submitted by the EE, PWD (Bridge), Jagdalpur to the Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, Chhattisgarh through the Chief Engineer, PWD, (Bridge) Raipur and in turn, the Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, Chhattisgarh has immediately forwarded the said revised proposal of the bridge over the Mandher Naala proposing the height of the bridge to be 106.60 meters from 101.110 meters to the State Government with a request to accord its administrative sanction on the said revised proposal being sent by the EE, PWD (Bridge), Jagdalpur.

6. It is respectfully submitted that vide order dated 01/12/2025 the State Government,

Department of Public Works has accorded its administrative sanction with respect to the aforesaid construction of a new bridge having its height to be 106.60 meters by sanctioning an amount of P.s. 1142.68 lakhs in this regard. Copy of the order dated 01/12/2025 issued by the State Government, PWD is being filed herewith as Annexure A/11. It is respectfully submitted that pursuant to the aforesaid administrative sanction accorded by the State Government, proceedings for issuance of Notice Inviting Tender have duly been initiated for obtaining technical sanction from the competent authority and after obtaining the same, the Notice Inviting Tender for construction of new bridge over the Mandher Naala would be floated as soon as possible.

7. It is respectfully submitted that, with respect to construction of large / high level bridge in L/036 Temnapani Khamhapara to Kanamgaon Khamhapara RD 2100 m. at 34.62 meter length in District Kanker under the head of special project, a request for grant of approval for the said project has been made to the Central Government, LWE Division, Ministry of Home vide letter dated 12/09/2025 and copy of the said letter has already been filed

as Annexure A/7 alongwith the affidavit filed on 16/09/2025. It is submitted that eliciting no response from the Central Government on the request being made by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, the said letter dated 12/09/2025 has been followed by reminder letter dated 10/11/2025 with further prayer to accord approval / sanction on the project of construction of large / high level bridge in L/036 Temnapani Khamhapara to Kanamgaon Khamhapara RD 2100 m. at 34.62 meter length in District Kanker under the head of special project and to demonstrate this fact, copy of the reminder letter dated 10/11/2025 is being filed herewith as Annexure A/12.

8. It is respectfully submitted that to peruse the matter in getting the project approved from the Central Government, 5 Nodal Officers from 4 Districts namely Kanker, Narayanpur, Bijapur and Sukma respectively have been nominated / appointed /deputed to provide the technical information of the project required so that the project could be got approved from the Technical Cell, IFD, MHA, New Delhi with direction to report their presence to Shri Sunny Kumar, State Programme Officer, LWRC. Cell, Mantralaya, Department Chhattisgarh. To

demonstrate this fact, copy of the order dated 11/11/2025 is being filed herewith as Annexure A/13.

9. It is respectfully submitted that the State Government is continuously perusing the matter with the Department of Home, Government of India and as soon as the administrative approval for construction of the said Bridge is received, the work of the same would be expedited.

10. That, the deponent most humbly and respectfully submits that he is a law abiding person and has the highest regards and great respect for the lawful authority of this Hon'ble Court and its orders and directions issued from time to time and he is duty bound to abide by and adhere to the order and direction of this Hon'ble Court.

11. That, the contents of this affidavit have been drafted according to my instructions and the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge and belief, based on the official records."

A bare perusal of the affidavit would show that, owing to excessive rainfall and the resultant rise in the Highest Flood Level of the Mandher Naala, the originally proposed

height of the bridge required upward revision. Consequently, a revised proposal enhancing the height from 101.110 meters to 106.60 meters has been prepared and forwarded, and fresh administrative sanction of Rs. 1142.68 lakh has been accorded on 01/12/2025, with steps for issuance of the Notice Inviting Tender already underway. It further appears that the State Government has also submitted a proposal to the Central Government (LWE Division, Ministry of Home Affairs) on 12/09/2025 for construction of a large/high-level bridge at L/036 Temnapani Khamhapara to Kanamgaon Khamhapara (RD 2100 m, length 34.62 m) in District Kanker under the Special Project head; and, no response having been received, a reminder dated 10/11/2025 has been issued, again requesting approval/sanction for the said project. Copies of both communications have been annexed with the affidavit.

Although the affidavit refers to the proposal sent on 12/09/2025 and the reminder issued on 10/11/2025 for the Kanker bridge project, it does not clarify what transpired thereafter or whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken

any steps on the matter. The absence of this information leaves the affidavit deficient.

Accordingly, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh is directed to file a fresh affidavit specifically disclosing the current status of the proposal before the Ministry of Home Affairs and detailing the further action taken to obtain approval and sanction.

List this case in the **3rd week of January, 2026.**

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice