



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPC No. 5562 of 2025

SHOUKILAL MAHANT **versus** UNION OF INDIA

Order on Board

08/12/2025	Mr. Sushobhit Singh, Advocate for the petitioner. Ms. Annapurna Tiwari, Advocate on behalf of Mr. R.K. Mishra, Dy. Solicitor General of India for respondent No.1. Mr. Chetan Singh Chouhan, Advocate for respondent No.2 to 5. Mr. Saumitra Kesharwani, Panel Lawyer for respondent No.6 and 7-State. Heard. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that land possessed by petitioner as Kotwar was subject matter of acquisition by respondent SECL and according to pleadings made in reply, compensation is not paid to petitioner but deposited in the account of State Government. Referring to decision of Andhra Pradesh High Court in case of Land

	Acquisition Officer-Cum- Revenue Divisional Officer vs Mekala Pandu and others, reported in AIR (2004) AP 250 and order dated 14.12.2018 passed by Madra High Court in W.A. No.1666/2018, it is argued that persons who are assigned government land, are also entitled for compensation equally as compensation is to be paid to the person owning the land in his name and all other benefits as per provisions under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 to 5 submits that the land possessed by petitioner, according to revenue record filed along with writ petition, is service land and not assigned to petitioner in person. Nature of service land is that it only means possession for the purpose of earning and the land is to be handed over to the person who is subsequently to be appointed as Kotwar after retirement of petitioner. Amount of compensation of government land is already deposited by respondent SECL with the State Government considering that land is recorded as government land in revenue records. Learned State Counsel submits that he may be
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granted further two weeks time to seek instruction and to file reply.

Time, as prayed for, is granted.

Learned State Counsel is also directed to seek instruction as to whether any other alternate land is given to petitioner as service land when 4.19 hectare of land recorded as service land and was in possession of petitioner as Kotwar, has been acquired for respondent SECL or whether any other alternate arrangement is made or not.

List this petition in the month of January 2026.

Sd/-

(Parth Prateem Sahu)
Judge

roshan/-