

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(C) No. 1645 of 2026

Rajeev Kumar.

... .. **Petitioner(s)**

Versus

The Authorized Officer, Bank of Baroda & Ors.

... .. **Respondent(s)**

CORAM : SRI ANANDA SEN, J.

For the Petitioner(s) : Mr. Ranjan Kumar, Advocate.

For the Respondent(s) BOB : Mr. P.S.A.S. Pati, Advocate.

02/ 18th March, 2026

1. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that in absence of regular Presiding Officer of D.R.T. (Debts Recovery Tribunal), even the urgent matters are not been taken up. Thus, the petitioner has to rush to this Court by filing this writ petition because his property has been auctioned. He submits that the Presiding Officer of the D.R.T. has given additional charge of three other D.R.Ts namely Allahabad (U.P.), Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) and he is originally holding the post of Presiding Officer of D.R.T. at Lucknow, U.P. It is his contention that the Officer is stationed at Lucknow and it has become very difficult to approach the tribunal.
2. The submission of the petitioner raises a serious question on access to justice which is a fundamental right of the Citizen of India.
3. It has been submitted at the bar that this situation is prevailing since June, 2024 when the regular incumbent/officer superannuated. It is also submitted that Officials of the D.R.T. are taking some cases through virtual mode.
4. The submission made by the counsel for the petitioner and the respondent bank poses a very serious question which needs to be answered.
5. Thus, I direct the petitioner to implead Union of India through Secretary, Department of Financial Services as party respondents.
6. Let necessary corrections be made in the cause title by the learned counsel for the petitioner in red ink.
7. Let the name of the Mr. Prashant Pallav, A.S.G.I. be reflected in the cause list on behalf of Union of India.
8. Let two copies of this order along with the writ petition be handed over to the Office of A.S.G.I.

9. Learned A.S.G.I. is present before this Court and he admits that there is no regular Presiding Officer of D.R.T. at Ranchi.
10. Considering the aforesaid fact, I direct the newly added respondents to file affidavit mentioning as to whether they intend to fill up the post of the Presiding Officer at D.R.T. at Ranchi or not and if yes, the timeline by which the appointment can be made.
11. List this case after two weeks under the heading for "**Orders**".
12. So far as this instant case is concerned, the case of the petitioner is that two properties of the petitioner has been auctioned on 04.02.2026 against the norms and procedures. He further submits that he has already deposited Rs.10 Lakhs and filed a representation. In spite of that his land has been auctioned.
13. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the bank submits that the auction was an e-auction and the amount outstanding is the same as in demand notice.
14. In reply, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that if this Rs.10 lakhs deposited by him is considered, then the amount outstanding would be Rs. 18 Lakhs and if three months' time is granted, he will deposit the entire Rs.18 Lakhs.
15. Considering the aforesaid submission, petitioner is directed to file an affidavit to the aforesaid effect.
16. The respondent-Bank is directed to file counter-affidavit.
17. In the meantime, the possession of the land will be not be handed over to the auction purchase.

(ANANDA SEN, J.)

18.03.2026
Amar/-
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