

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P. (PIL) No.2273 of 2026

Court on its own Motion

-Versus-

The State of Jharkhand Respondent.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH SHANKAR

For the State : Mr. Piyush Chitresh, A.C. to A.G.

Order No.03

Date: 11.06.2026

1. Heard Mr. Piyush Chitresh for the State, Mr. Chitresh hands in I.A. seeking extension of time by eight weeks to comply with our order dated 13th April, 2026.
2. We have perused the I.A. and we are sorry to say that the reasons for extension are entirely misconceived.
3. Our order dated 13th April, 2026 had only reiterated the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment and order dated 26th February, 2026 in Writ Petition (C) No.1082 of 2020.
4. The directions were issued because the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed each of the High Courts to assume an active role in overseeing and ensuring effective implementation of the directions issued in the order dated 26th February, 2026.
5. For the present, the State Government had to constitute a monitoring committee for management of OCIs. The composition of such committee was already provided in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 26th February, 2026 and the same was only reiterated by this Court in its order dated 13th April, 2026.

6. Still, the I.A. filed before us makes a vague statement in paragraph no.4 that "a draft of monitoring committee for management of Open Correctional Institutes has been prepared by the department and has been placed before the competent authority, Government of Jharkhand for approval". Once the Hon'ble Supreme Court has provided for the composition of the State Monitoring Committee, we failed to understand what draft has been prepared by the State Government.
7. We suspect that no draft has been prepared because none has been enclosed along with the I.A. In any event, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has provided that the State Monitoring Committee is to comprise the following: -
 - a. Executive Chairperson of the State Legal Services Authority or his nominee (including a former Judge of the High Court).
 - b. Home Secretary of the State (or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary); and
 - c. A senior officer of the Prisons Department (not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General), to be nominated by the Home Department of the State.
8. Now that the constituent/composition of the monitoring committee is already provided, we failed to understand why allegedly some draft of the monitoring committee was prepared and placed before the Government of Jharkhand for its approval. The Hon'ble Supreme Court issued these directions on 26th

February, 2026 and this Court reiterated the above directions on 13th April, 2026.

9. Since 13th April, 2026 there was more than ample time for compliance. Still, based upon some vague statements in the I.A. and with utmost casualness, eight weeks' time is sought for. This gives an impression that the State of Jharkhand is not at all serious in complying with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Court or constituting the monitoring committee.
10. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 26th February, 2026 had directed each of the High Courts to register a suo moto writ petition and exhorted the High Courts to assume an active role in overseeing and ensuring effective implementation of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
11. Therefore, we are now constrained to issue directions to the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand to ensure that the State Monitoring Committee is constituted within a period of ten days from today without seeking any further extensions.
12. Needless to add that constitution/composition of the Committee shall be in terms of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. A compliance report in this regard must be filed on or before 24th June, 2026.
13. Further, the Chief Secretary must also file a compliance report furnishing the status of OCIs in the State of Jharkhand and furnish all details regarding their management and functioning to date. This compliance report must also be filed on or before 24th June, 2026.

14. The I.A. seeking extension of eight weeks' time is dismissed, this time, without any cost.
15. List the matter on 25th June, 2026 at 02:15 p.m.

(M. S. Sonak, C.J.)

(Rajesh Shankar, J.)

11th June, 2026
Sanjay/Rohit
Uploaded on 12.06.2026