

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(PIL) No. 3764 of 2022

Jharkhand State Bar Council, through its Secretary, Rajesh Pandey, S/o  
Late Subodh Kumar Pandey, R/o Dhurwa, P.O. & P.S.-Dhurwa, District-  
Ranchi

..... Petitioner

Versus

- 1. State of Jharkhand
- 2. Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi
- 3. Secretary, Law, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi

..... Respondents

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CORAM

HON’BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH SHANKAR

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For the Petitioner: Mr. V.P. Singh, Sr. Advocate (Amicus)  
Ms. Rashmi Kumar, Advocate  
For the Respondents: Mr. Yogesh Modi, A.C. to A.A.G.-IA

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24/03.12.2025

- 1. The tabulated statements of the Court-fee collected during last 10 years  
have been annexed with the counter affidavit dated 13.08.2025 filed by  
the Under Secretary, Law Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi,  
which read as under:

| Expenditure on Judiciary |         |               |             |               |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sl. No                   | Year    | Establishment |             |               |
|                          |         | Civil Court   | High Court  | Total         |
| 1                        | 2012-13 | 1,537,413,998 | 361,836,359 | 1,899,250,357 |
| 2                        | 2013-14 | 1,651,698,061 | 430,320,411 | 2,082,018,472 |
| 3                        | 2014-15 | 1,936,535,760 | 488,695,394 | 2,425,231,154 |
| 4                        | 2015-16 | 2,216,116,117 | 462,901,160 | 2,679,062,277 |
| 5                        | 2016-17 | 2,310,138,310 | 582,376,849 | 2,892,515,159 |
| 6                        | 2017-18 | 2,743,494,713 | 815,717,771 | 3,559,212,484 |
| 7                        | 2018-19 | 3,247,944,505 | 897,244,033 | 4,145,188,538 |

|    |         |               |               |               |
|----|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 8  | 2019-20 | 3,332,518,000 | 975,378,000   | 4,307,886,000 |
| 9  | 2020-21 | 31,874,29,000 | 1,009,084,000 | 4,196,513,000 |
| 10 | 2021-22 | 3,575,302,345 | 1,083,359,083 | 4,658,661,428 |

| Revenue from Court Fees |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| FY                      | Amount       |
| 2010-11                 | 97,45,56,000 |
| 2011-12                 | 22,80,96,000 |
| 2012-13                 | 40,54,32,000 |
| 2013-14                 | 35,74,35,000 |
| 2014-15                 | 38,72,13,000 |
| 2015-16                 | 50,71,23,000 |
| 2016-17                 | 63,64,07,000 |
| 2017-18                 | 30,07,43,000 |
| 2018-19                 | 19,55,75,000 |
| 2019-2020               | 16,66,06,000 |
| 2020-21                 | 10,10,79,000 |

2. Having perused the aforesaid tabulated statements, this Court on 09.09.2025, had passed the following order:

“Learned counsel for the petitioner prays for and is granted two weeks’ time to file a supplementary affidavit with regard to the revenue generated from the Court Fees for the financial years 2010-2011 to 2020-2021, more particularly as to why there is a declining trend of revenue generated in the tabulated statement available at page 16 of the counter affidavit dated 13.08.2025 filed on behalf of respondent No. 3, more particularly when the litigation over the years has only increased manifold and as a matter of fact, forms the basis and justification for enhancement of the Court Fees.

List on 23.09.2025.”

3. Thereafter, learned Advocate General, on instruction, reiterated that even after verification, the data as reflected in the counter affidavit dated 13.08.2025, continues to be the same and he too was of the view that there could be instances where fake Court-fees might be in circulation as would be evident and the same was recorded in the order passed on 15.10.2025, which reads as under:

"1. On 09.09.2025, this Court passed the following orders:-

"Learned counsel for the petitioner prays for and is granted two weeks' time to file a supplementary affidavit with regard to the revenue generated from the Court Fees for the financial years 2010-2011 to 2020-2021, more particularly as to why there is a declining trend of revenue generated in the tabulated statement available at page 16 of the counter affidavit dated 13.08.2025 filed on behalf of respondent No. 3, more particularly when the litigation over the years has only increased manifold and as a matter of fact, forms the basis and justification for enhancement of the Court Fees.

List on 23.09.2025."

2. The learned Advocate General states that after verification the stand as reflected in the counter affidavit dated 13.08.2025 filed by the State continues to be the same, but yet he is of the confirmed view that probably the data as provided for is not the correct data and there could be chances that there are certain fake Court-fees which could be circulated and in order to find out that, it would be expedient and in the interest of justice that the data from the Courts with regard to the Court-fees is called for.

3. We find merit in this contention and accordingly direct the Registrar (Judicial) of this High Court to collect the relevant data from all the Courts in the State of Jharkhand including this High Court with regard to the Court-fees that have been affixed from the year 2012-13 upto 2021-22.

4. List on 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2025."

4. Later on, the Registrar (Judicial) of this Court in compliance of the order dated 15.10.2025 (supra), filed a detailed report dated 03.11.2025 as

total value of the Court-fees affixed in all the judgships of the State of Jharkhand (Judgeship-wise & year-wise) has been stated to be as under:

| Total Value of Court Fees affixed in the State of Jharkhand (Judgeship Wise & Year Wise) |            |            |            |          |          |           |          |            |          |          |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Judgeship Wise/ Year Wise                                                                | 2012-13    | 2013-14    | 2014-15    | 2015-16  | 2016-17  | 2017-18   | 2018-19  | 2019-20    | 2020-21  | 2021-22  | Total       |
| Bokaro                                                                                   | 3021863    | 3641411    | 9229751    | 11382306 | 12457748 | 4135423   | 4938156  | 6539015    | 1668003  | 4473472  | 61487148    |
| Chatra                                                                                   | 239109.5   | 484210.5   | 505404     | 481455   | 589689   | 562718    | 1298838  | 1316664    | 528035   | 904196   | 6910319     |
| Deoghar                                                                                  | 900038.5   | 769100     | 1267317.5  | 1934290  | 1031630  | 1246120   | 1232136  | 1543643    | 958048   | 1002031  | 11884354    |
| Dhanbad                                                                                  | 3395513    | 3000751    | 4109621    | 4960900  | 6173558  | 7380374   | 5324784  | 6113806    | 3117407  | 2057261  | 45633975    |
| Dumka                                                                                    | 623711.3   | 763177.85  | 562346.05  | 981949   | 1167429  | 1052624   | 1587615  | 1799047    | 649137   | 1865199  | 11052235.2  |
| East Singhbhum at Jamshedpur                                                             | 1536611.5  | 1694074.5  | 2898433.5  | 2864577  | 2165541  | 3043226.5 | 3899666  | 3661230    | 1000378  | 13495758 | 36259496    |
| Garhwa                                                                                   | 168682     | 183783     | 193184     | 218609   | 207474   | 263322    | 264011   | 267246     | 278978   | 313962   | 2359251     |
| Giridih                                                                                  | 1063030    | 1397930    | 979029     | 1528770  | 1716173  | 2351734   | 2207496  | 1720135    | 1055548  | 2215064  | 16234909    |
| Godda                                                                                    | 1039169.5  | 905454     | 1195529    | 902495   | 1188186  | 1430863   | 2138688  | 2700683    | 2204827  | 1727775  | 15433669.5  |
| Gumla                                                                                    | 526272     | 1029768    | 411889     | 394683   | 5042930  | 1210892   | 1617772  | 593026     | 417143   | 765482   | 12009857    |
| Hazaribagh                                                                               | 2616083    | 3443069.5  | 4809776    | 3953530  | 4234546  | 2854975   | 3978932  | 4128733    | 1493396  | 3628301  | 35141341.5  |
| Jamtara                                                                                  | 581204     | 515985     | 595840     | 650239   | 444648   | 708274    | 786164   | 572581     | 197981   | 584751   | 5637667     |
| Khunti                                                                                   | 70201      | 76180      | 92035      | 101862   | 109227   | 2461339   | 299941   | 206196     | 287722   | 296591   | 4001294     |
| Koderma                                                                                  | 572621     | 751126     | 807146     | 726028   | 720357   | 1200674   | 1025810  | 597752     | 519667   | 989701   | 7910882     |
| Latehar                                                                                  | 629142     | 588472     | 785120     | 1375419  | 964105   | 976634    | 1297379  | 1161154    | 729696   | 1608308  | 10115429    |
| Lohardaga                                                                                | 401862     | 646815     | 438779     | 882172   | 778081   | 845192    | 990784   | 834544     | 2060136  | 1090640  | 8969005     |
| Pakur                                                                                    | 425709     | 343801     | 403914     | 279517   | 450089   | 1476154   | 776217   | 824584     | 204894   | 426259   | 5611138     |
| Palamau at Daltonganj                                                                    | 699190     | 831420     | 866565     | 843030   | 881296   | 819961    | 1009476  | 837492     | 414596   | 869632   | 8072658     |
| Ramgarh                                                                                  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 242087   | 656240   | 1080056   | 1027853  | 1029867    | 397075   | 528776   | 4961954     |
| Ranchi                                                                                   | 15208007   | 15147521   | 16655054   | 11704074 | 16838648 | 15572597  | 14384360 | 16012937   | 10318269 | 15240026 | 147081493   |
| Sahibganj                                                                                | 346667     | 294637     | 383179     | 611400   | 518325   | 341894    | 657808   | 330173     | 198819   | 314345   | 3997247     |
| Seraikella-Kharsawan                                                                     | 760047     | 631248     | 722812     | 655445   | 545870   | 675874.5  | 735732   | 866737.4   | 304069   | 343485   | 6241319.9   |
| Simdega                                                                                  | 282768     | 228542     | 284521     | 281126   | 231046   | 254085    | 212171   | 457193     | 192710   | 309546   | 2733708     |
| West Singhbhum at Chaibasa                                                               | 633699     | 1353283    | 1081619    | 1000718  | 985896   | 1358991   | 1125487  | 1021115    | 658653   | 932194   | 10151655    |
| TOTAL                                                                                    | 35741200.3 | 38721759.4 | 49278864.1 | 48956681 | 60098732 | 53303997  | 52817276 | 55135553.4 | 29855187 | 55982755 | 479892005.1 |

5. Since there is a serious mismatch in the data provided by the State as well as by the Registrar (Judicial) of this Court, we deem it appropriate to refer this issue to the Principal Accountant General, Jharkhand, Ranchi, who shall look into the discrepancies and submit a report to this Court within a period of six weeks from today.
6. List this case on 04.02.2026.
7. The Registrar General of this Court is directed to communicate this order to the Principal Accountant General, Jharkhand, Ranchi.

(TARLOK SINGH CHAUHAN, C.J.)

(RAJESH SHANKAR, J)