

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(S) No. 6512 of 2026

.....
Subhash Murmu & Ors.

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

-VERSUS-

State of Jharkhand through the Chief Secretary,
Government of Jharkhand & Ors.

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

.....
CORAM: **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK ROSHAN**

For the Petitioner(s)

: Mr. Indrajit Sinha, Adv
Mr. Amritansh Vats, Adv
Mr. Ankit Vishal, Adv
Ms. Prerna Jhunjhunwala, Adv
Mr. Kumar Abhishek, Adv
Mr. Arpan. M. Ekka, Adv
Mr. Ashish Choudhary, Adv
Mr. Rahul Ranjan, Adv
Mr. Ajay Kumar Lal, Adv
Mr. Mohit Mukul, Adv
For the Respondent (s) : Mr. Shri Rohitashya Roy, AG
Mr. Jai Prakash, AAG-IA
Mr. Achyut Keshav, Sr. AAG
Mr. Vibhour Mayank, A.C. to A. G
Mr. Sanjoy Piprawall, Adv

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02/21.08.2026

1. The instant writ application has been preferred by the petitioners for quashing and setting aside Notification dated 18.08.2026 as contained in Notification No. 06/Lo.Sa. AA.-01-07/2026 Ka. 5404/Jharkhand (Annexure-8) issued by the 2nd respondent; whereby the said respondent has cancelled all the recruitments pursuant to Advertisement for Recruitment of Child Development Project Officer pursuant to the Advertisement No. 21/2023.

2. The grievance of the petitioners is that they were duly appointed pursuant to Advertisement No. 21/2023; however, all of a sudden, due to this notification dated

18.08.2026, the entire examination/recruitment process has been cancelled and resultantly their services have been disengaged.

3. It has been submitted by Mr. Indrajit Sinha, Ld. Counsel for the petitioners that no any process of natural justice has been complied; rather due to some pressure, as per his instruction, this action has been taken by the concerned respondent, accordingly, Annexure-4 be stayed.

4. Mr. Rohitashya Roy, learned Advocate General submits that though the counter-affidavit has not been filed, but as per his instructions upon various allegations made by different citizens of the State, they have already started in-depth enquiry by the Investigating Agency i.e. Crime Investigation Department (CID) and few arrests have also been made.

5. Learned Advocate General further submits that since it is a very important issue affecting the masses of Jharkhand accordingly, a time frame may be fixed for filing counter affidavit/rejoinder and hearing and this case may be disposed of as early as possible in order to prevent any further confusion among the masses.

6. However, on the issue of principles of natural justice learned counsel submits that there was a mass bungling in the entire recruitment process and only due to that reason

the Government has rightly cancelled the entire appointment pursuant to the Advertisement No. 21/2023.

7. Having regard to the rival submissions of learned counsel for the parties, this Court is *prima facie* of the view that a regular appointment cannot be disturbed/terminated without following principles of natural justice. The impugned order does not reflect any materials which can justify these drastic steps taken by the respondents. Further, the Investigating Agency is already in action.

8. So far as the issue of interim protection is concerned; this Court feels that interest of justice and balance of convenience is paramount and in the instant case, the balance of convenience is in favour of the petitioners; inasmuch as, in effect they have been terminated without following any due process of law. Further, operation of this notification is also against public interest.

9. Accordingly, learned counsel for the respondents are directed to file counter-affidavit on or before 07.09.2026, also indicating about the investigation and/or any further development. Further, learned counsel for the petitioner shall file rejoinder to the counter-affidavit on or before 14.09.2026.

10. List this case on 15.09.2026 at 12:15 P.M.

11. In the meantime, the operation, implementation and execution of the Notification No. 06/Lo.Sa. AA.-01-07/2026 Ka. 5404/Jharkhand (Annexure-8) dated 18.08.2026 with regard to Advertisement No. 21/2023 shall remain stayed till further orders.

12. It is made clear that the learned Advocate General is directed to inform the concerned department to allow the petitioners as well as others, who are similarly situated and affected by this notification, to continue their work till disposal of the writ application.

13. However, looking to the overall facts and circumstances of the case, all the petitioners are directed to file an affidavit/undertaking to the effect that the final order passed by the trial court in connected criminal case shall be binding on them and the Government would be free to take appropriate action in accordance with law.

(Deepak Roshan, J)

21.08.2026

Amardeep/

Uploaded on
21.8.2026