

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P. (C) Filing No. 12657 of 2024

Mahendra Mishra

..... Petitioner

Versus

The Methodist Church in India, having its office at YMCA
Road & Ors. Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK ROSHAN

For the Petitioner : Ms. Prerna Jhunjhunwala, Adv

For the Respondent :

2/Dated: 2nd December, 2024

Issue notice to the respondents, under registered cover with A/D as well as ordinary process for which requisites etc. must be filed within two weeks.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the eligible member of General Conference is now only one and normally the election of General Conference takes place every 4th year and the last election was held in the year 2016 and due to pandemic the election could not be held in the year 2020. As a matter of fact, due to some reason or the other the General Conference election could not be conducted till date and it has been informed to the petitioner that the election of General Conference which elects BISHOPs, is going to be held in January, 2025.

3. Learned counsel further submits that in the meantime, it is apprehended that the respondent no.5 who is otherwise retired and could not take any decision has been made in-charge of Bengal Regional Conference, in view of Chapter XVIII Art. II of 387, wherein it is indicated that in the event of being

70th birthday falling any time within the quadrennium, he shall be continued in the office as an active Bishop till the first day of Regular Session of the General Conference of the Quadrennium.

She contended that since on the one hand, the election of Bishops could not be conducted for the last 9 years and just before the proposed election is to be conducted the petitioner is being harassed, inasmuch as, a notice was issued to him on 23.04.2024; whereby an enquiry officer was appointed. The petitioner duly replied to the said notice by challenging the authority of enquiry officer before the Bishop namely, Subodh Chandra Mondal (respondent no.5) vide letter dated 29.04.2024 and further the petitioner also replied to the letter dated 03.05.2024 to the Executive Secretary- Mr. Raja McGee vide its letter dated 10.06.2024. However, no decision has been taken and no personal opportunity of hearing is being given on the contention raised by the petitioner, but it is apprehended that tomorrow they might take a decision against him.

4. In view of the aforesaid submissions, any such decision, if taken, shall be subject to the outcome of this writ petition, inasmuch as, in January, 2025 they are going to conduct election of General Conference.

5. List this case on 31.01.2025.

(Deepak Roshan, J.)