

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
L.P.A. No. 358 of 2025

The State of Jharkhand, through the Principal Secretary, Water
Resource Department, Ranchi & Others Appellants
Versus

Nabin Narayan & Another Respondents

With

L.P.A. No. 719 of 2025

The State of Jharkhand, through the Principal Secretary, Water
Resource Department, Ranchi & Others Appellants
Versus

Ramchandra Rajak & Another Respondents

CORAM

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

For the Appellants:	Mr. Anish Kr. Mishra, A.C. to Sr. S.C.-I
For the Res.-A.G.:	Ms. Shruti Shrestha, Advocate

05/24.02.2026

1. These appeals are against learned Single Judge's order dated 20.08.2024. No interim relief has been granted by the Appellate Court on the ground of pendency of these appeals.
2. The learned Single Judge's direction has not been complied with despite expiry of more than one and half years. At the same time, despite opportunities, the appellants are not taking effective steps to serve the respondents-petitioners. Accordingly, vide order dated 09.02.2026, we directed the respondents to deposit the withheld amount of pension based upon the order dated 08.08.2022 in this Court within two weeks. This period of two weeks expired on 23.02.2026. Till date, the said amount has not been deposited.
3. Learned counsel for the appellants only inform us that some steps are being taken up for deposit the said amount. He submits that a letter has been written to the Accountant General in this regard.

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Accountant General flatly refuses that any such letter has been addressed or received in the Office of the Accountant General. Accordingly, we are satisfied that the State is bent upon disobeying the orders of this Court. Despite several opportunities, the orders of this Court are being disobeyed.
5. Therefore, we issue notice to the Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi to ensure that the withheld amount of pension is deposited by tomorrow in this Court.
6. We post this matter on 26.02.2026 to enable the Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi to appear before this Court through V.C. and show cause why action under the Contempt of Courts Act should not be immediately taken against him because prima-facie this is disobedience of the Court's orders.
7. Normally, we are reluctant to direct the Secretaries to appear before this Court. However, it appears that full advantage is being taken of our reluctance, which is being viewed by certain government officials as some sort of weakness. Still, we direct Mr. Prashant Kumar-Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi to attend the proceeding through V.C. personally. However, if the said amount is deposited by tomorrow, the Principal Secretary need not attend the proceeding through V.C. In case, the Principal Secretary is busy and is unable to attend the proceeding, the

Chief Secretary of the State would attend the proceeding through V.C.

8. All concerned to act on an authenticated copy of this order.
9. Learned A.C. to Sr. S.C.-I to immediately communicate this order to the Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi so that the needful be done at the earliest.

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

(RAJESH SHANKAR, J.)

24.02.2026
Satish/Vikas/