

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

WP(C) No. 289 of 2026

Elias Howmai

...***Petitioner/s***

Vrs.

State of Manipur & 3 Ors

With

...***Respondent/s***

MC(WP(C)) No. 312 of 2026

-B E F O R E-

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHANTHEM BIMOL SINGH

17.04.2026

[1] Heard Mrs. Ayangleima, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner.

[2] Issue notice, returnable within 3(three) weeks.

[3] Mrs. Ch. Sundari, learned GA entered appearance and accepts notice on behalf of respondent nos. 1, 2 & 3, hence no formal notice is called for in respect of the said respondents.

[4] Petitioner is to take steps for service of notice upon the respondent no. 4 by way of speed post service. Steps should be taken within one week and petitioner is to file affidavit showing proof of service of such notice.

[5] It is the case of the petitioner that the Education Engineering Wing, Education(S) Department, Manipur issued a notice inviting E-tender dated 14.08.2025 inviting Composite Bids in two Bids system (Technical and Financial Bid) for construction of 50 Bedded Girls Hostel under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram

Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), 2025-26 at Purul Higher Secondary School, Senapati, Manipur.

[6] Pursuant to the said NIT, the petitioner submitted his Bid and after evaluation of the Technical Bids, the authorities issued an office order dated 27.10.2025 declaring the Technical Bid submitted by the petitioner and Technical Bid submitted by the respondent no. 4 as responsive/qualified. It was also notified in the said order that the Financial Bids submitted by the said qualified Bidders will be opened on 31.10.2025 at 2:00 p.m. and such financial bids were open on the scheduled date and the petitioner was found to be the lowest bidder for such construction work.

[7] It has been submitted by the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner that even though the petitioner was found to be the lowest bidder, the authorities instead of issuing the work order in favour of the petitioner, issued an order dated 26.03.2026 cancelling such construct work.

[8] It is also the case of the petitioner that while issuing the cancellation order, no reason whatsoever was assigned by the authorities. Accordingly, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that such cancellation order has been issued by the authorities arbitrary and whimsically and as such, a prayer has

been made for passing an interim order for suspending the operation of the said cancellation order.

[9] Mrs. Ch. Sundari, learned GA appearing for the respondent submitted that she will get instruction from the authorities whether any reason has been given by the authorities while issuing such cancellation order and to consider the prayer for passing interim order on the next date.

[10] As prayed for by the learned GA, let these cases be listed again on 21.05.2026 for consideration of the prayer for passing interim order.

[11] However, it is made clear that till the next returnable date, no process should be taken up by the authorities for re-tendering of the contract work without leave of this Court.

JUDGE

Lucy