



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK
W.P.(C) PIL No.790 of 2026**

Ramesh Chanddra Das and others* *Petitioners

Mr.Jajati Keshari Khuntia, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others* *Opposite Parties

Ms.Biswabara Dash, Addl. Standing Counsel

**CORAM:
THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MURAHARI SRI RA
MAN**

**ORDER
03.02.2026**

Order No.

01. ***1.*** It appears that the project in question was sanctioned and started in the year 2017 and the contract was awarded for supply of drinking water under the Scheme “Har Ghar Jal” in 135 villages within Badamba and Narsinghpur Blocks in the District of Cuttack. The project was to be completed within two years, yet nearly 08 years have elapsed, the supply of drinking water at the door steps of the inhabitants of those 135 villages is far away from the reality. Being perturbed with the inaction and dormant attitude of the administration and waiting for such long years, the approach was made to the administration in the year, 2025 and after receiving the said representation, the



administration woke up and started the exchange of correspondences. The steps against the contractor appears to have been taken on 7th January, 2026 when a show cause notice was issued asking the contractor to give reply within 07 days. Even after the lapse of the said 07 days, the counsel for the opposite parties is unable to apprise the Court as to whether any decision has been taken thereupon.

2. We are not unmindful of the universal fact that the water is an essential source of life, not only for the survival of the human race, but also flora and fauna. In the year, 2026, it is inconceivable that several parts of the State are deprived of pure and hygiene drinking water. Several initiatives are taken by the Government, policies are adopted, yet the execution appears to be abysmally low and the people who are beneficiaries of such policy/ Scheme are awaiting for such a long time to avail the benefit thereof. The motto “Har Ghar Jal” appears to have remained on the papers and no step appears to have been taken to ensure the meaningful implementation of such motto.
3. We, therefore, direct the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (opposite party No.3) to submit a report showing not only the progress having made, but also the steps taken between the



year 2019 to 2025 and thereafter, within two weeks from date. However, the pendency of the instant public interest litigation may not stand as a hindrance to any positive step (s) to be taken in this regard by the concerned Department.

4. List this matter on 24th February, 2026.

(Harish Tandon)
Chief Justice

(M.S. Raman)
Judge

Bichi