



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

CRLMP No. 229 of 2026

***MV DEBI (IMO: 9616735), owned
by Asian Pacific Shipping Company***

Petitioner

Mr. Soumya Jyoti Biswal, Advocate

-versus-

***1. Union of India
2. State of Odisha***

Opposite Parties

Mr. J.N. Panda, CGC
Mr. S.J. Mohanty, ASC

CORAM:

HON'BLE MISS JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO

ORDER

17.03.2026

(Through hybrid mode)

Order No.

02.

1. Pursuant to the order dated 05.03.2026, Mr. J.N. Panda, learned Central Government Counsel submits that he has received the parawise reply from the Additional Commissioner, Customs (Prev.), Commissionerate, Bhubaneswar and requires some time to file an affidavit.
2. He submits that it stated therein that where it is stated that chargesheet has been filed on 30.05.2024 in SPLGR (N) 65/2023 against unknown in the Court of the Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kujang on the basis of investigation completed so far. During investigation, neither the Crew members (who were present onboard the Vessel during seizure of the narcotics substances) nor the



Director of M/s. Asia Pacific Shipping Company Limited (owner of the Vessel MV DEBI) were able to answer as to how Cocaine in such huge quantities came onboard the Vessel MV DEBI. However, some of the crew members of the Vessel MV DEBI had signed off at the Port of Jebel Ali during October, 2023 and the Director of the Vessel in his statement dated 08.04.2024 had assured for cooperation in the investigation to bring the previous crew members of the Vessel for investigation before the Customs Authority. Hence, request had been made vide e-mail on 06.05.2024 and 17.05.2024 followed by numerous reminder email requests and the last e-mail had been sent on 10.12.2025 followed by further reminder e-mail sent on 02.03.2026 but no arrangement in this regard has been made so far.

3. Mr. Soumya Jyoti Biswal, learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that pursuant to the request of the Customs Authorities, the crew members who had signed off at the Port of Jebel Ali will be produced before them by 18.03.2026 for the purpose of investigation. He further submits that direction may be issued for starting the trial as the Vessel have been detained at Paradip Port since 22.12.2023 as the conditions fixed for the release of the vehicle



being onerous (Rs.75,00,00,000/- with two solvent sureties) could not be complied with for which the vehicle is still anchored at Paradip Port.

4. Perused the status report submitted by the learned Additional District Judge, Kujang where it is stated that the case was instituted on 06.12.2023 on receipt of complaint report (PR) under Section 42 (2) of the NDPS Act of the Customs, Paradip Division, Jagatsinghpur vide Customs File No. C. No. VIII-CUS-26 (01)DEBI/PDP/ 2023 against unknown accused persons, relating to the seizure of contraband article suspected to be cocaine weighing 22 kg. 218 grams (gross weight) and the case is pending for submission of final chargesheet and is posted to 04.04.2026, awaiting the same.

5. List this matter on 25.03.2026.

6. Affidavit, if any, shall be filed by Mr. J.N. Panda, learned Central Government Counsel in the meanwhile.

puspa

**(Savitri Ratho)
Judge**