



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 460 OF 2017

Ajaya Kumar Sahoo

....

Petitioner

Mr.Upendra Kumar Samal, Advocate

-versus-

***The Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.,
Sambalpur and others***

....

Opp. Parties

Mr. Pratyush Ranjan Pattnaik, Advocate
(For Opp. Party Nos.1 & 2)
Mr.Bibekananda Nayak,
Additional Government Advocate
(For Opp. Party Nos.3 & 4)

CORAM:

JUSTICE K.R. MOHAPATRA

JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA

ORDER

03.02.2026

Order No.

12. 1. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.
2. Additional affidavit filed by the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
(for brevity, 'MCL') enclosing the copy of the Rehabilitation and
Resettlement Policy, 1989 (for brevity, 'R & R Policy, 1989') is
taken on record.
3. Annexure-4 discloses that the petitioner being the son of the
recorded tenant Diatary Sahoo was previously sponsored by the
Special Land Acquisition Officer for rehabilitation benefits under
the MCL. Further, the record reveals that the Joint Screening
Committee has also sponsored the name of the petitioner to be
employed under the R & R Policy, 1989 as nominee of his father,
namely, Dharanidhar Sahoo, but vide Annexure-7, the claim of the
petitioner to be employed in MCL under the R & R Policy, 1989,
has been rejected on the ground that the recorded tenant, namely,
Dharanidhar Sahoo, for his benefit, had concealed that his father,



namely Daitary Sahoo is either the sole recorded tenant or jointly recorded with others in respect of Khata Nos. 92, 93 and 94 in village Sanatribeda.

4. Mr. Samal, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that Khata Nos. 92, 93 and 94 in village Sanatribeda do not stand in the name of the petitioner or his father, namely, Dharanidhar Sahoo, but the Record of Rights annexed to the Writ Petition discloses that Dairtary Sahoo, the father of Dharanidhar Sahoo, was a tenant in respect of the aforesaid Khatas.

5. It is not known as to whether Daitary Sahoo was alive on the date of notification under Section 4(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or not. The report of the Joint Screening Committee is also not available on record. It is also not clear as to how Santosh Sahoo, the elder son of Dharanidhar Sahoo, got employment under the MCL.

6. Mr. Pattnaik, learned counsel appearing for the MCL prays for an adjournment to get a clarification on the same and file an affidavit of a competent officer along with relevant documents.

7. Let the affidavit be filed within two weeks serving a copy of the same on the learned counsel for the respective parties.

8. Mr. Nayak, learned Addl. Government Advocate is directed to produce the copy of the report of the Joint Screening Committee, which is stated to be available with the Special Land Acquisition Officer, MCL, Angul on the next date.

9. Put up this matter on 12th March, 2026.

(K.R. Mohapatra)
Judge

(S.K. Mishra)
Judge