



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

WP(C) No. 15991 of 2025

Manas Ranjan Dehury

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Petitioner

*Mr. Amit Prasad Bose, Advocate
with Mr. Bikash Mishra, Advocate*

-versus-

1. **State of Odisha,**
represented through its Secretary,
Law Department, Bhubaneswar
2. **Odisha Hindu Religious
Endowment, Government of
Odisha,**
represented by Commissioner of
Endowments, Bhubaneswar
3. **The Addl. Assistant
Commissioner of Endowments,**
Office of the Commissioner of
Endowments, Sambalpur
Division, Odisha.
4. **The Executive Officer,**
Maa Tarini Thakurani Temple
Trust, Ghatgaon, Keonjhar,
Odisha.

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Opposite Parties

*Mr. Sibanarayan Biswal,
Additional Standing Counsel
(For Opposite Party No.1)*

*Miss Pratyusha Naidu, Advocate
(For Commissioner of Endowments-
Opposite Party Nos.2 & 3)*

*Mr. Pratap Chandra Mishra, Advocate
(For Opposite Party No.4)*

CORAM:

**JUSTICE K.R. MOHAPATRA
JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO**

**ORDER
10.11.2025**

Order No.

08.

1. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.



2. The petitioner in this writ petition prays for the following relief.

“a) Issue a writ of certiorari or writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction to quash the letter No. 190 dated 28.05.2025 issued by Opposite Party No. 4 and also the order dated- 23.05.2025 vide memo no. 632 passed by the opposite party no.3 at Annexure-2/A and allow the petitioner to continue the Arnna Prasad alaya service.

b) Direct the Opposite Parties to provide reasonable time and/or compensation if the work is to be legally reassigned under a new tender process.

c) Pass such other order(s) as may be deemed just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.”

3. Mr. Bose, learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that the father of the Petitioner being a Sebayat was nominated by the Sebayats to prepare daily Arnna Prasad of the deity under the direct supervision of the Executive Officer at the rate of ₹45/- per head and the father of the Petitioner was also required to pay rent of ₹6000/- per month for using the Bhoga Mandap. The father of the Petitioner was so appointed vide Order No.1320 dated 27th November, 2015 of the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Sambalpur. While continuing as such, the father of the Petitioner died and the Petitioner continued the preparation of the Arnna Prasad and serve to the devotees on payment of the dues as directed. In the meantime, the rate of Arnna Prasad has been increased to ₹70/- per head. It is stated that the order dated 27th November, 2015 was further extended vide letter dated 10th August, 2022 issued by the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Sambalpur. When the Petitioner was so continuing, basing upon the report of the Inspector of Endowments, Sundargarh, in-



charge, Keonjhar, the Executive Officer of Maa Tarini Temple Trust convened a meeting regarding preparation of Arnna Prasad by Sebayats of the religious institution by executing fresh agreement and to stop the Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya till a fresh agreement is executed.

3.1 Accordingly, the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Sambalpur vide Memo No.632 dated 23rd May, 2025 directed the Executive Officer to make necessary arrangements for increasing the capacity of Arnna Bhoga offered by the Trust Board to meet the requirements of devotees and also directed to close the Arnna Prasadalaya. Accordingly, the Executive Officer, Maa Tarini Thakurani Temple Trust vide Letter No.28th May, 2025 intimated the Petitioner that the Arnna Prasadalaya shall remain closed and preparation of Arnna Prasad for devotees shall remain suspended with effect from 1st June, 2025 till a fresh agreement is executed.

4. Petitioner, being aggrieved by the said letter, has filed this writ petition.

5. Mr. Bose, learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that no opportunity of hearing was given to the Petitioner before asking him to stop preparation of Arnna Prasad and offer it to the devotees in Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya. As the Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya remained closed with effect from 1st June, 2025, the families depending upon the same in preparing the Arnna Bhoga Prasad are suffering a lot.

6. Considering the submissions of Mr. Bose, learned counsel for the Petitioner, this Court had directed Miss Naidu,



learned counsel for the Commissioner of Endowments to take instruction in the matter.

7. On instruction, Miss Naidu, learned counsel representing the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Sambalpur submits that the Arnna Bhoga Prasads are being offered by the Trust Board as well as by the Sebayats. The Sebayats nominate a person of their choice to provide Arnna Bhog Prasad to the devotees on behalf of Sebayats. Accordingly, the father of the Petitioner was nominated and his nomination was approved by the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments. After his death, the Petitioner was continuing with the said Seva. Recently, the Sebayats decided to enhance the capacity of Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya so also the quality and quantity of the Arnna Bhoga Prasad to meet the requirement of the devotees. Thus, they approached the Additional Assistant Commissioner to make arrangement in that regard.

7.1. In view of the direction contained in Letter No.632 dated 23rd May, 2025 issued by the Additional Assistant Commissioner, Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya has been closed and the Petitioner was asked not to prepare Arnna Bhoga Prasad till a fresh agreement is executed with the nominee of the Sebayats.

8. Mr. Pratap Chandra Mishra, learned counsel for the Executive Officer submits that he has no instruction in that regard.

9. At this stage, Mr. Bose, learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that making arrangement for providing Arnna



Bhoga Prasads to the devotees on behalf of Sebayats will take some time. Till such arrangement is made, the Petitioner may be allowed to continue as before, on payment of dues, which is also beneficial to the devotees and deity.

10. Miss Naidu, learned counsel representing the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, Sambalpur submits that the Court may consider the submission of the learned counsel for the Petitioner and pass orders.

11. Mr. Bose, learned counsel for the Petitioner, however, undertakes to clear all the outstanding dues, if any, pending against the Petitioner.

12. Taking note of the submissions made by the learned counsel for the parties, this Court finds that the Petitioner was supplying Arnna Bhoga Prasada to the devotees on behalf of Sebayats till 1st June, 2025. However, it appears that some dues are outstanding on the Petitioner.

13. This Court, as a purely temporary measure and without prejudice to the rights and contentions of any of the parties to the case, disposes of the writ petition with a direction that till an arrangement is made pursuant to the Memo No.632 dated 23rd May, 2025 issued by the Additional Assistant Commissioner of Endowment, Sambalpur, the Petitioner shall continue to prepare the Arnna Bhoga Prasad and utilize the Arnna Bhoga Prasadalaya to provide the same to the devotees on the terms and conditions so prevailing before 1st June, 2025, under supervision of the Executive Officer of Maa Tarini Thakurani.



14. Needless to say that the Petitioner shall be allowed to operate as above on payment of outstanding dues to the Temple Trust Board, if any, pending as well as current dues. It is made clear that the Petitioner shall handover the Arnna Bhog Prasadalya and Rosa Ghara to the person in favour of whom the fresh agreement is executed, immediately.

Urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application.

(K.R. Mohapatra)
Judge

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge

RKS