



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

WP(C) No.18186 OF 2026

Shibaram Podh

.... Petitioner

Mr. Bijay Kumar Behera, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha & others

.... Opp. Parties

Mr. Manmaya Kumar Dash,
Additional Standing Counsel

CORAM:

JUSTICE K.R. MOHAPATRA

JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MISHRA

ORDER

14.07.2026

Order No.

02.

1. This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.
2. Mr. Dash, learned Additional Standing Counsel places on record the written instruction imparted by the Special Land Acquisition and R.R. Officer, Lower Indra Irrigation Project, Khariar vide letter No.1470 dated 13th July, 2026. Copy of the said written instruction is taken on record.
 - 2.1. It is indicated, *inter alia*, that three months' time is required to take a decision on the claim of the Petitioner. On the basis of such instruction Mr. Dash, learned Additional Standing Counsel prays for three months' time.
3. Mr. Behera, learned counsel for the Petitioner vehemently objects to the same and submits that the Petitioner had earlier approached this Court in W.P.(C) No.19561 of 2020 for a direction to the Opposite Party Nos.2 & 3, namely, the Director (R.R.) and Ex-Officio Special



Secretary in the Department of Water Resources, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar as well as the Collector and District Magistrate, Nuapada to sanction and disburse the R & R package in favour of the Petitioner.

3.1. The said writ petition was disposed of on 15th October, 2020 with direction to the Opposite Party No.2 to sanction the amount at an early date. The Collector and District Magistrate, Nuapada (Opposite Party No.3) was also directed to take expeditious steps for disbursement of compensation amount in favour of the Petitioner. It was further directed that the entire exercise should be completed within a period of three months from the date of receipt of the copy of the order. In spite of the same, no action was taken by the Opposite Party Nos.2 and 3 for sanction and disbursal of the amount.

3.2. As such, the Petitioner filed CONTC No.5659 of 2021 before this Court, which was disposed of on 24th April, 2023 on the basis of the statement made by the learned State Counsel to the effect that the order dated 15th October, 2020 passed in W.P.(C) No.19561 of 2020 has already been complied with, the contempt proceeding was dropped giving liberty to the Petitioner to pursue his remedy, if any cause of action survived. In spite of the statement made by the learned State Counsel, payment of compensation was not made to the Petitioner. Hence, the Petitioner filed representations dated 1st December, 2025 and 1st June, 2026, but to no effect. As such, this writ petition has been filed. Hence, the Opposite Party Nos.2 & 3 should be directed to sanction and disburse the amount to the Petitioner at an early date.



4. In view of such objection raised by Mr. Behera, learned counsel for the Petitioner, this Court adjourns the matter to be listed on 18th August, 2026, on which date, learned State Counsel shall apprise the Court about the developments in the meantime.

(K.R. Mohapatra)
Judge

(S.K. Mishra)
Judge

Kanhu