



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P. (C) No.21728 of 2026

Bahadajhola ... ***Petitioner***
Swajaldhara User's
Committee,
represented through
its Secretary-
Prashanta Kumar
Sahoo

Mr. S. S. Mohanty, Advocate

-versus-

1. State of Odisha ***Opposite Parties***
represented through
Secretary, Department
of Panchayati Raj and
Drinking Water
(Department of
RWSS), Bhubaneswar
2. Collector, Nayagarh
-cum- Chairman,
District Water &
Sanitation Committee,
Nayagarh
3. Block Development
Officer, Nuagaon
Block, Nayagarh
4. Sarapanch,
Bahadajhola Gram
Panchayat, Nayagarh
5. Superintending
Engineer RW & S
Division, Nayagarh

Mr. P. K. Ray, AGA

CORAM: JUSTICE V. NARASINGH



ORDER
17.07.2026

Order No.

- 01.** 1. Heard learned counsel for the Petitioner and learned counsel for the Opposite parties.
2. This writ petition has been filed assailing the order dated 14.11.2025 passed by the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Nayagarh in Misc. Case No.64 of 2025 in handing over of Drinking Water facilities to Gram Panchayat under the Swajaldhara Bahadajhola.
3. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the Petitioner referring to the guidelines in question that ex facie the same has no application in this case, since, the same is prospective.
4. Learned counsel for the State opposes such prayer and submits that since there were allegations, in public interest, the same have been given to a representative body of public at large the Gram Panchayat, which does not call for any interference.
5. Considering the impugned order and the tenor thereof and the guidelines referred to hereinabove, this Court is persuaded to hold that the matter merits examination.
6. Accordingly, issue notice to the Opposite Parties.

Since the learned counsel for the State accepts notice on behalf of Opposite Party Nos.1 to 3 and 5, no further notice need be issued.



Notice be issued to the Opposite Party Nos.4 by Speed Post. Requisites shall be filed by 22.07.2026.

7. Considering the urgency involved, learned counsel for the State is requested to file a reply at an early date.

8. Accordingly, list this matter on 17.08.2026 under the same heading.

9. The counter affidavit/instructions, if any, be filed 10.08.2026.

(V. NARASINGH)
Judge

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