

Court No. - 50

Case :- WRIT - B No. - 2811 of 2025

Petitioner :- Hari Nath And 19 Others

Respondent :- State Of U.P. And 3 Others

Counsel for Petitioner :- Dharam Raj, Rituendra Singh Nagvanshi

Counsel for Respondent :- Azad Rai, C.S.C.

Hon'ble Ajay Bhanot, J.

Heard Shri Shri R.C.Singh, learned Senior Counsel assisted by Shri Dharam Raj, learned counsel and Shri Narayan Dutt Shukla, learned counsel for the petitioners, learned Standing Counsel for the respondents No.1 and 2-State and Shri Azad Rai, learned counsel for the respondent No.3-Gaon Sabha.

It is submitted that the original records were lost in a fire in the record room. The records pertaining to matters pending before the consolidation authorities as well as other revenue authorities often relate to title disputes and implicate substantive rights of the tenure holders.

It is informed that there are government orders which contemplate weeding out of revenue records after a point in time. Hence the records could not be reconstructed.

Revenue records directly impact the ownership claims over agricultural lands and have a bearing on the agricultural community at large. The said records cannot be weeded out at any point in time. In fact the revenue records are liable to be properly protected and preserved for perpetuity.

The Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow as well as Consolidation Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow to file their personal affidavits regarding safe keeping and preservation of revenue records for perpetuity by digitizing the same and/or preserving such records in any other permanent manner.

In case the affidavits are not forthcoming, the concerned officer shall appear in person before the Court on the next date of listing.

The petitioners claim to be in possession of the strength of certain revenue entries.

Matter needs consideration.

All the respondents including the State to file counter affidavit within four weeks. Rejoinder affidavit may be filed within two weeks thereafter.

List this matter on 02.09.2025.

Till the next date of listing, the status quo shall be maintained by the parties as regards the disputed property.

Order Date :- 1.8.2025

Ashish Tripathi