

2.07.2025
Item No.31
Court No.01
S. Bag(AR(CR))

**In the High Court at Calcutta
Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri**

WPA/631/2020

**SRI ASHIM KUMAR DUTTA AND ORS
VS
THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL AND ORS**

Mr. Ajay Singhal, Adv.
Ms. Parmita Chowdhury, Adv.
...for the petitioners

Mr. Subir Kumar Saha, Ld. AGP
Mr. Nabankur Paul, Adv.
...for the State

The petitioner challenges the vires of the “Rules Regarding Management of Darjeeling Improvement Funds” and prays for consequential reliefs. The writ petition was filed as far back as 2020 and there have been at least 16 (sixteen) adjournments whereby the State respondent have taken time to file their Affidavit-in-Opposition. Significantly, costs of Rs.15,000/- has also been paid by the State as a punitive measure. Nevertheless, there is no Affidavit-in-Opposition which has been filed by till date.

Pursuant to the direction dated 1st July, 2025, the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Darjeeling who is admittedly the authorized person to provide information for preparation of the affidavit by the State is present in Court and submits that since the documents pertaining to the subject matter of this litigation are old, they

are taking considerable time in searching for such records.

The Special Land Acquisition Officer, Darjeeling tenders his apology for the delay and undertakes to file the Affidavit-in-Opposition by 11th July, 2025.

The time to file the Affidavit-in-Opposition is peremptorily extended till 11th July, 2025.

Let this matter appear on 11th July, 2025.

The personal presence of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Darjeeling is noted and dispensed with for the time being.

(RAVI KRISHAN KAPUR, J.)