

Item no.30
13.08.2025
Saswata

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

WPA 951 of 2025

**M/s Lapka Namgay Bhutia
-versus
State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Mr. Uday Sankar Sarkar
Mr. Avimannu Das

...For the Petitioner

Mr. Sudipto Kumar Mazumder, Ld. DSGI
Mr. Sourab Kar

...For the Union of India

Mr. Hirak Barman
Mr. Sumit Kumar

...For the State

1. It is the case of the petitioner that despite supply of materials under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), for the financial year 2022-23 pursuant to a notice inviting tender and the work order dated 3rd September 2019, payments have not been made by the Programme Officer / Block Development Officer, notwithstanding final bill having been received.

2. Records reveal that the work order had been issued prior to the deactivation of the MGNREA portal.

3. The parties would submit that it is in connection with the above deactivation of the portal that a Public Interest Litigation was moved

when the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court presided over by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice taking note of the submission made by the Central Government and while permitting the Central Government to proceed with the enquiries as recommended by the Central team, had directed the 'MGNREGS' to be implemented prospectively with effect from 1st August 2025.

4. Mr. Mazumder, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India appearing for the Union of India would submit that ordinarily all particulars in connection with execution of the work under the MGNREGS are required to be uploaded on the portal. However, by reasons of the portal remaining deactivated the bills could not be uploaded. He would submit that having regard to the order passed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court presided over by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice in a Public Interest Litigation on 18th June 2025 steps have been taken to activate the portal with effect from 1st August 2025. He is, however, not aware as regards the exact status and as such, he prays for an accommodation.

5. Mr. Saha, learned AGP appears on behalf of the State. He also seeks an accommodation to take appropriate instructions in this matter.

6. In view thereof, let this matter stand over and appear as '*to be mentioned*' on **20th August 2025**.

(Raja Basu Chowdhury, J.)