

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P (C) No. 28354 of 2013  
And  
CONTC No. 5149 of 2022

*Pramod Kumar Pradhan & Ors.* ..... Vs. ....

*Petitioner*  
*Mr. S.J. Nanda, Adv.*

*Principal Secretary, Water  
Resources Department,  
Bhubaneswar and others* .....  
Vs. ....

*Opposite Parties*

*Mr. J.P. Pattnaik, GA*

**CORAM:**

**DR. JUSTICE B.R. SARANGI  
MR. JUSTICE B.P. SATAPATHY**

ORDER  
16.01.2023

Order No.  
23.

This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.

2. Vide order dated 06.01.2023, this Court taking into consideration the misery of the petitioners, whose lands had been acquired in the year 1961 and till date compensation amount has not been paid, took a serious view on the issue and called upon the Collector and District Magistrate, Angul to appear in person before this Court on 16.01.2023 and to file show cause as to why contempt proceeding shall not be initiated against him for non-payment of the compensation. In compliance of the said order, Mr. Lalit Mohan Behera, Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Angul appears in person and contended that the Collector is suffering from illness and therefore he could not appear. He being the Collector, In-charge, Angul files an affidavit in Court today taking a different stand. But we are not convinced with such a stand taken by him. In any case, since the compensation amount has not been paid to the petitioners till date, even though the writ petition was filed in the year 2013 and in the meantime more than 10 years have passed, and that the lands were

acquired in the year 1961 and in the meantime more than 60 years have passed, this Court directs that till payment of compensation to the petitioners is made for the land acquired by the State Government, the salary of Collector and District Magistrate, Angul, Land Acquisition Officer, Angul and Chief Development Officer-cum-Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Angul shall not be released in their favour. However, only on payment of compensation, if any application is filed that the petitioners have been paid their compensation, then release of salary of the concerned officers shall be considered by this Court.

*Ashok*

