

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.503 of 2022

Pradayeni Swain

.... ***Petitioner***
Mr. K.K. Rath, *Advocate*

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

.... ***Opp. Parties***
Mr. S. Jena,
Standing Counsel for S & ME

CORAM:

JUSTICE A.K. MOHAPATRA

ORDER

10.01.2022

Order No.

01.

1. This matter is taken up through Video Conferencing Mode.
2. Heard Mr. K.K. Rath, learned counsel appearing for the Petitioner and Mr. S. Jena, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the School and Mass Education Department.
3. The limited grievance of the Petitioner in the present writ petition is that a show-cause notice under Annexure-2 dated 06.12.2021 issued by the District Project Coordinator, Kandhamal to the Petitioner. In the said notice, the Petitioner was given thirty days time to file show-cause reply.
4. It is submitted by learned counsel for the Petitioner that the time granted by the authority is not sufficient and he needs more time to collect necessary documents to defend his case. It is further submitted that show-cause action of every fair trial is observance of principle of natural justice and as such, the authority may be directed to fair treat to present their case before the authorities in every matter which has civil consequence.
5. Mr. S. Jena, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the

School and Mass Education Department submits that the Petitioner has been granted thirty days time to file his show-cause reply and the time has already been expired in the meantime.

6. Having heard learned counsel for the parties, this Court in the interest of justice directs to the Petitioner to file show-cause reply positively by 31st January, 2022 along with all documents. It is made clear that no further extension of time shall be granted to the Petitioner in any circumstance. Further, Opposite Party No.5 is directed to accept the show-cause reply, if the same is filed within the stipulated time hereinabove and consider the same in accordance with.

7. It is made clear that the Court has not expressed any opinion on the merits of the case.

8. With the aforesaid direction, the writ petition stands disposed of.

9. As the restrictions due to resurgence of COVID-19 situation are continuing, learned counsel for the parties may utilize a print out of the order available in the High Court's website, at par with certified copy, subject to attestation by the concerned Advocate, in the manner prescribed vide Court's Notice No.4587, dated 25th March, 2020 as modified by Court's Notice No.4798, dated 15th April, 2021 and Office Order dated 7th January, 2022.

(A.K. Mohapatra)
Judge