

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.8615 of 2025

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Dinbandhu Prasad Kushwaha @ Dinbandhu Prasad Son of Devdhari Prasad,
Resident of Village- Nekname, Police Station- Siwaipatti, District-
Muzaffarpur.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Principal Secretary, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar, Old Secretariat, Patna.
2. The Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Government of Bihar, Old Secretariat, Patna.
3. The Divisional Commissioner, Tirhut Division, Muzaffarpur.
4. The District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur.
5. The Sub-Divisional Officer (East), Muzaffarpur-cum-Licensing Authority, Muzaffarpur.
6. The Block Supply Officer, Block- Minapur, Muzaffarpur.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Sanjeet Kumar, Advocate.
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Government Advocate 09

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. ABHISHEK REDDY
ORAL ORDER

2 20-06-2025 Heard the learned counsels for the parties.

2. This writ petition has been filed for seeking the
following relief(s)

“(i) For issuance of writ in the nature of Certiorari to set aside the order contained in Memo No. 789 dated 16.08.2024 issued under the signature of Sub-Divisional Officer, East, Muzaffarpur by which the PDS License of the petitioner has been cancelled in most illegal and arbitrary manner and without supplying the inquiry Report of Block Supply Officer, Minapur contained in Memo No. 88 dated 24.07.2024 which is also the basis of issuance of order of cancellation. The petitioner was not given proper/adequate opportunity to file his reply to show casue notice.



(ii) That the petitioner further prays for quashing of the order dated 13.03.2025 passed in Supply Appeal Case No. 03/2024 (Dinbandhu Prasad Kushwaha Versus The State of Bihar passed by the Court of Learned District Magistrate-cum-Appellate authority, Muzaffarpur by which Appeal preferred by the petitioner under Rule-32(iii) of Bihar Targeted PDS Control) Order, 2016 (hereinafter be referred on Control Order) has been rejected without applying the judicial mind and as well as without considering the grounds taken in the Memo of Appeal.

(iii) That the petitioner further prays for direction upon the Respondents to restore the PDS shop of the petitioner which he is running in Chatusi Panchayat of Minapur Block in the District of Muzaffarpur.”

3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner has stated that in the Show Cause Notice issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer there is no proposal for cancellation of the license. Learned counsel has stated that non-mentioning of the proposal for cancelling his license is contrary to the provisions of order 27(ii) of the Bihar Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Order, 2016’).

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner has relied on the judgment of the full Bench passed in CWJC No. 21202 of 2021 and analogous cases dated 26.09.2023 to buttress his contention that non-mentioning of the proposed action in the show-cause notice is bad in law and contrary to Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016.



5. Learned counsel has stated in view of the above mentioned provisions of law and judgment relied by the petitioner, the impugned order may be set aside and matter remanded back to the authorities concerned for issuing a fresh show-cause notice in terms of order 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016 and thereafter take necessary action.

6. Per contra, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents has vehemently opposed the very maintainability of the writ petition and stated that the present writ petition is not maintainable as the petitioner has exhausted all the remedies and all the authorities have found that the petitioner has violated the provisions of the Control Order, 2016. Learned counsel has therefore prayed this Hon'ble Court to dismiss the present writ petition.

7. This Hon'ble Court in CWJC No. 21202 of 2021 and analogous cases has held as under:

“19. Accordingly, we answer the reference as under:-

It is mandatory for a licensing authority issuing a notice under order 27(ii) to a licensee to mention that there is a proposal for cancellation of his license, failing which such notice cannot be treated to be a valid notice of giving sufficient opportunity to the licensee to state his case under order 27(ii) of the BTPDS Control Order. ”

8. A perusal of the show-cause notice issued to the petitioner does not reveal that there is any proposal of the action



sought to be taken against the petitioner. Therefore, the same has to be held as bad, illegal, contrary to the provisions of Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order and has to be necessarily set aside.

9. Having regard to the above facts and circumstances and the law laid down by this Hon'ble Court, the present CWJC is allowed. The impugned order dated 16.08.2024 passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, East, Muzaffarpur and the order dated 13.03.2025 passed by the District Magistrate-cum-Appellate Authority, Muzaffarpur are both set aside. The matter is remanded back to the Sub-divisional Officer for issuing a fresh show-cause notice to the petitioner strictly in compliance with the provisions of Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016 and call for his explanation by giving him reasonable time.

10. On such show-cause notice being served, the petitioner shall file his explanation within the stipulated time. On receipt of the explanation submitted by the petitioner the authority concerned shall pass a reasoned order strictly in accordance with law duly taking into consideration the explanation submitted by the petitioner.

11. It is needless to mention that before passing any orders, the petitioner shall be given an opportunity of hearing. The entire exercise shall be completed as expeditiously as



possible preferably within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. Any order passed shall be communicated to the petitioner.

12. With the above directions, this Writ Petition is allowed to the extent indicated above.

(A. Abhishek Reddy, J)

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