IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(C) No.1504 of 2018

Nand Kumar Singh, son of Late D.N. Singh, resident of Lala Danga, P.O. Mugma, P.S. Kumardhubi, District Dhanbad.

... ... Petitioner

Versus

1. M/s Eastern Coalfields Limited, through its General Manager (P& IR) Eastern Coalfields Limited, Sanctoria, P.O. & P.S. Sanctoria, District Burdwan.
2. The Agent, Lakhi Mata Colliery, M/s Eastern Coalfields Limited, P.O. & P.S. Nirsa, District Dhanbad.

... ... Respondents

CORAM : SRI ANANDA SEN, J.

For the Petitioner : Mr. Ramchander Sahu, Advocate
For the Respondents : Mr. Rajesh Lala, Advocate

12/ 14.09.2026

By filing this writ petition, the petitioner has prayed for the following reliefs:-

> *"for issuance of an appropriate writ(s)/order(s)/direction(s) commanding upon the respondent to expedite the issue relating to employment as well as crop compensation in lieu of 1.30 Acres of land which has occupied by the respondents on terms and conditions that one dependent of petitioner shall be provided employment and now the proposal as such, has been properly approved and sanctioned even though the issue has been kept pending."*

2. Heard learned counsel representing the petitioner and learned counsel representing the respondents.

3. It is the case of the petitioner that his land was acquired by the respondents on terms and conditions that one dependent of petitioner shall be provided employment, however, since the dependent of the petitioner has crossed the upper age limit for employment, the petitioner is only claiming monetary compensation in place of employment.

4. On the other hand, learned counsel representing the respondent – ECL, while referring to para-15 and 16 of the counter affidavit, opposes the aforesaid claim of the petitioner and submits

that the land in question does not even belong to the petitioner, as the same is a *Gair Mazarua* land and is vested with the Government. He further submits that a similarly situated person namely Gautam Sen Gupta, was also claiming his possession over the land in question, by filing application seeking prior permission to sell the land, however the said claim was rejected by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, which is evident from Annexure-A to the counter affidavit.

5. From the stand taken by the respondent – E.C.L. in the counter affidavit, I find that they are stating that the petitioner does not have any title over the land in question. The aforesaid dispute cannot be resolved in an application under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, where the petitioner needs to establish his right, title and interest over the property in question, thus I am not inclined to entertain this Writ Petition.

6. Accordingly, this Writ Petition stands **dismissed**.

7. However, the petitioner is at liberty to approach the Civil Court for declaration of his right, title and interest. If ultimately the right, title and interest over the land in question is declared in favour of the petitioner, then the petitioner can approach the appropriate Forum for grant of compensation.

(ANANDA SEN, J.)

14th September, 2026
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