IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(C) No.6818 of 2026
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1. Anup Prakash, son of Late Lalmani Mahto, resident of Village Kothar, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
2. Churaman Mahto, son of Late Videshi Mahto, resident of Village Kothar, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
3. Santosh Kumar, son of Late Loknath Mahto, resident of Village Kothar, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.

... ... Petitioners

Versus

1. State of Jharkhand, through the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, having office at Project Building, Dhurwa, P.O. Dhurwa, P.S. Jagarnathpur, District Ranchi.
2. Secretary, Department of Revenue, Registration and Land Reforms, Government of Jharkhand, having office at Project Building, Dhurwa, P.O. Dhurwa, P.S. Jagarnathpur, District Ranchi.
3. Deputy Commissioner, Ramgarh, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
4. District Land Acquisition Officer-cum-Competent Authority, H.N. 33, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
5. Land Reforms Deputy Collector (LRDC), Ramgarh, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
6. Circle Officer, Ramgarh, P.O. & P.S. Ramgarh, District Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
7. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), through its Project Director, C/76, Harmu Housing Colony, near Swami Sahjanand Chowk, P.O. & P.S. Harmu, District Ranchi.

... ... Respondents

CORAM : SRI ANANDA SEN, J.

For the Petitioner(s) : Mr. Rajeeva Sharma,Sr. Advocate,with
Mr. Sunil Kumar Mahto, Advocate

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. Tarun Kr. Mahato, AC to AG
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Shandilya, Advocate
Mr. Amrit Raj Kisku, Advocate
Mrs. Sweety Topno, Advocate

02/ 01.09.2026

By filing this Writ Petition, the petitioners have prayed for the following reliefs:-

"(a) For issuance of direction commanding the respondents to immediately conclude the long-pending Compensation Case No.20/2011-12 and

pass a reasoned, speaking order on the Petitioners' claim for compensation within a strict, fixed time frame, after affording a proper opportunity of a personal hearing to the Petitioners.

(b) Alternatively, direct the Respondents to immediately calculate and pay fair and lawful compensation to the Petitioners for their 1.68 Acres of land (Khata No.93, Plot No.342, Village Kothar, District Ramgarh) used for making National Highway NH-33. This payment must be made under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and must include all legal benefits, solatium, and interest.

(c) Directing Respondent Nos.2, 3, 4, and 6 to file a comprehensive status affidavit disclosing the legal authority under which physical possession was taken, the current revenue position of the land, and reasons for non-payment of compensation despite admitted utilization for public infrastructure.

(d) Directing the Respondents to award exemplary damages/interest for the unconstitutional, prolonged deprivation of property in violation of Article 300A of the Constitution."

2. Heard learned senior counsel representing the petitioners and learned counsel representing the respondents.

3. It is the grievance of the petitioners that though the land of the petitioners had been acquired by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), for construction of the National Highway, but no compensation has been paid.

4. Considering the aforesaid fact, I direct the petitioners to approach the District Land Acquisition Officer (respondent No.4),

by filing a detailed representation.

4.1. On receipt of such representation, the respondent No.4 will consider the same and pass an appropriate order, in terms of the National Highways Act, within eight weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order.

4.2. If there is some dispute, it will be open to respondent No.4, to invoke Section 3 H of the National Highways Act.

5. With the aforesaid observations and directions, this Writ Petition stands **disposed of**.

(ANANDA SEN, J.)

01st September, 2026
Prashant. Cp-2

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