IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(C) No. 8457 of 2026

Md. Najimuddin aged about 76 years son of Lt. Md. Tahiruddin resident of Kashimnagar, P.O. & P.S. Kashimnagar, District Birbhum.

... Petitioner

Versus

1. State of Jharkhand
2. Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, through its Chairman having their office at H.EC, Dhurwa, P.O. and P.S. Dhurwa, District Ranchi (Jharkhand).
3. The Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Jharkhand, Dhurwa Nursery Complex, Near Dhurwa Bus Stand, P.O. and P.S. Dhurwa, District Ranchi (Jharkhand)
4. The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Jharkhand, Dhurwa Nursery Complex, Near Dhurwa Bus Stand, P.O. and P.S. Dhurwa, District Ranchi (Jharkhand)
5. The Secretary, Department of Industries, Mines and Geology, having its office at Yojna Bhawan, P.O. and P.S. Doranda, District Ranchi (Jharkhand).
6. The Director, Mines Directorate, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand, having its office at Yojna Bhawan, P.O. and P.S. Doranda, District Ranchi (Jharkhand).
7. Deputy Commissioner, Pakur, having its office at District Collectorate, Pakur, P.O. & P.S. Pakur, District Pakur, (Jharkhand).
8. District Mining Officer, Pakur, having its office at District Collectorate, Pakur, P.O. & P.S. Pakur, District Pakur, (Jharkhand).

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ PRASAD

For the Petitioner: Mr Indrajit Sinha, Advocate
Mr P.A.S. Pati, Advocate
For Resp. Nos. 1 & 5-8: Ms Neeharika Mazumdar, A.C. to A.G.
For Resp. No. 2: Mrs. Richa Sanchita, Advocate
Ms Risheeta Singh, Advocate
For Resp. Nos. 3 & 4: Mr Anuj Sarwesh, Advocate

02/Dated: 28.10.2026

1. Heard Mr Indrajit Sinha, learned counsel, who appears with Mr P.A.S. Pati, learned counsel for the petitioner, Ms Neeharika Mazumdar, learned A.C. to A.G. for respondent Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Ms Risheeta Singh, learned counsel for respondent No. 2 and Mr Anuj Sarwesh, learned counsel for respondent Nos. 3 and 4.

2. This petition seeks the following limited relief:-

> *"For directing Respondent No. 3 (State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Jharkhand) to forthwith consider and decide the Petitioner's pending application for grant of Environmental Clearance (Category B-1) in respect of the mining lease area situated in Mauza Dhiwaldangal, Thana No. 05, Jamabandi No. 12 & 13 Plot No. 554, 555 & 556 District Pakur, Area 3.50 A (1.42 Ha.)"*

3. Mr Indrajit Sinha, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the Terms of Reference (ToR) in pursuance of petitioner's application for grant of environmental clearances was issued on 20th August, 2024. Pursuant to the same, a public hearing was held by the 2nd respondent on 11.07.2025. Since then, the matter is pending before the 3rd respondent and not being disposed of.

4. Since the learned counsel for the 3rd respondent is unable to make a statement about the time-line within which the matter would be disposed of, we direct the 3rd respondent to dispose of the petitioner's pending application for grant of environmental clearance as expeditiously as possible and in any event within three months from the date of uploading of this order on this

Court's website. Such disposal should be in accordance with law and on its own merits.

5. We clarify that we have not examined the matter on merits and our direction is only to dispose of the petitioner's pending application for grant of environmental clearance in accordance with law and on its own merits. The 3rd respondent must communicate its decision to the petitioner within this period of three months.

6. The petition is disposed of in the above terms without any order for costs. Pending Interlocutory Applications, if any, do not survive and are disposed of.

7. All concerned must act on an authenticated copy of this order.

(M. S. Sonak, C.J.)

(Manoj Prasad, J.)

October 28, 2026

N.A.F.R.

APK/VK

Uploaded on 30.10.2026