IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.14072 of 2026
CNR No. ODHC010328282026

Union of India and others .... ***Petitioners***
Mr. G.K. Acharya, Senior Advocate
Mr. S.K. Patra, Standing Counsel

-versus-

Sri Pramod Kumar Adhikari .... ***Opposite Party***
Mr. S.K. Ojha, Advocate

CORAM:
JUSTICE B. P. ROUTRAY
JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO

ORDER
06.11.2026

Order No.

11. 1. Heard Mr. G.K. Acharya, learned Senior Advocate along with Mr. S.K. Patra, learned Standing Counsel for the Petitioners and Mr. S.K. Ojha, learned counsel for the Opposite Party.

2. The Petitioners in present writ petition, who are the statutory authorities under the Union of India, seek to challenge the order dated 26.03.2026 of learned CAT, Cuttack Bench passed in C.P. No.64 of 2025. The Petitioners have further sought for challenging the very initiation of the contempt proceeding before leaned CAT on the ground that the same is not maintainable.

3. Mr. Acharya, learned Senior Counsel for the Petitioners submits that as per the impugned order dated 26.03.2026 under Annexure-1 though learned Tribunal has recorded the objection of the Petitioners with regard to the maintainability of contempt proceeding, but without dealing with the same straightaway directed to file the compliance report by the Respondents (present

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Petitioners) within four weeks. It is thus submitted on behalf of the Petitioners that, the learned Tribunal is duty bound to first deal with the objection raised by the present Petitioners and such direction to file the compliance report without dealing with their objection on merit is unsustainable.

4. Mr. Ojha, learned counsel for the Opposite Party on the other hand questions the maintainability of present writ petition in view of Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 read with Section 19 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. According to him, present writ petition in the grab of an appeal under Section 19 of the Contempt of Courts Act is not maintainable before the High Court and the Petitioners have to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

5. At this stage, Mr. Acharya, learned Senior Counsel for the Petitioners, seeks permission to withdraw present writ petition with liberty to approach learned CAT by filing an application raising his objection in writing and further prays that the learned Tribunal should pass appropriate order dealing with his objection.

6. In view of the submission made by Mr. Acharya, learned Senior Counsel on behalf of the Petitioners, we dispose of the writ petition as withdrawn keeping all the questions of law open, permitting the Petitioners to file their objection in appropriate petition before learned CAT within a period of 15 days from today. In such event, learned CAT shall deal with the objection of the Petitioners on merit, in accordance with law, within a period of one month from the date of filing of the petition.

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7. It is made clear that we have not expressed our opinion with regard to the contentions made by the parties.

8. An urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application.

(B.P. Routray)
Judge

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge

B.K. Barik/Prasant

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