IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.36223 of 2026
CNR No. ODHC010850182026

Pradeep Kumar Panda …. **Petitioner**
Mr. S.D. Routray, Advocate

-Versus-

State of Odisha & others …. **Opposite Parties**
Mr. S.K. Parhi, ASC

CORAM:
MR. JUSTICE R.K. PATTANAIK

ORDER
04.11.2026

Order No.

01. 1. Heard Mr. Routray, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mr. Parhi, learned ASC for the State.

2. Instant writ petition is filed by the petitioner for a direction to the opposite parties to grant benefits of Senior Lecturer and Reader Scale of pay as per entitlement from 1st March, 2000 and 1st March, 2010 under the provisions of the Odisha Non-Government Aided College Lecturers Placement Rules, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules, 2014') upon modification of the Government Notifications dated 28th October, 2017 and 1st February, 2021 under Annexures-2 & 3 so far as it relates to him and to grant all consequential differential arrears within a stipulated period as would be fixed by this Court.

3. Mr. Routray, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the case of the petitioner is covered by the decision in **Chittaranjan Das Vrs. State of Odisha & others 2023(II)**

ILR-Cut-980, referring to which, in an identical case, this Court quashed the decision of the Authority concerned in **Krushna Chandra Behera Vrs. State of Odisha & others** in W.P.(C) No.30722 of 2026 dated 30th September, 2026. Similar view has been expressed in **Dolamani Meher Vrs. State of Odisha & others** in W.P.(C) No.4312 of 2016 decided along with batch of matters and disposed of on 6th July, 2023, which is pending decision before the Apex Court being challenged by the State. The submission is that the petitioner is entitled to the benefits of Senior Lecturer and Reader Scale of pay from 1st March, 2000 and 1st March, 2010 respectively as per the provisions of the Rules, 2014.

4. Recorded the submission of Mr. Parhi, learned ASC for the State.

5. Referring to the decision in **Chittaranjan Das** (supra), this Court in **Krushna Chandra Behera** (supra) held that the petitioner therein is entitled to the benefit of placement. In fact, in **Chittaranjan Das** (supra), Explanation to Rule 4(1) of the Rules, 2014 was read down and considering the same, the decision of the Authority was quashed in **Krushna Chandra Behera** (supra). Having regard to the entitlement of the petitioner and the decisions referred to hereinabove and regard being had to the submissions of Mr. Routray, learned counsel and Mr. Parhi, learned ASC for the State, this Court reiterates the view as in **Krushna Chandra Behera** (supra) and to hold that the petitioner is equally eligible for the benefits of Senior

Lecturer and Reader Scale of pay in accordance with the provisions of Rules, 2014 thereby modifying the notifications dated 28th October, 2017 and 1st February, 2021 under Annexures-2 and 3.

6. Accordingly, it is ordered.

7. In the result, the writ petition stands disposed of with a direction to opposite party Nos.1 & 2 to grant the benefits upon such placement of the petitioner vis-à-vis Senior Lecturer Scale of pay w.e.f. 1st March, 2000 and Reader Scale of pay w.e.f. 1st March, 2010 under the provisions of the Rules, 2014 at the earliest preferably within a period of six weeks soon after receiving a copy of this order.

8. Issue urgent certified copy as per rules.

(R.K. Pattanaik)
Judge

Ranjeeta

Signature Not Verified
Digitally Signed
Signed by: RANJEETA SAHOO
Reason: Authentication
Location: HIGH COURT OF ORISSA
Date: 06-Nov-2026 10:48:23