IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.38891 of 2026

ODHC010889722026

Smruti Ranjan Nayak .... ***Petitioner***

Mr. Ranjit Mohapatra, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others .... ***Opp. Parties***

Mr. Jayant Kumar Bal, AGA

CORAM:
JUSTICE MRUGANKA SEKHAR SAHOO

ORDER
25.11.2026
(*Hybrid Mode*)

Order No.

01. **1**. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Advocate for the Opp. Parties.

2. The writ application has been filed, inter alia, challenging the recovery letter dated 05.06.2025 directing the petitioner to deposit amount of Rs.22,173.40/- (rupees twenty-two thousand one hundred seventy-three only) in the State Bank of India, Secretariat Branch, Bhubaneswar within seven days. As would be evident from the said letter (Annexure-1), the petitioner worked as a Mate in Dharadharpur Gram Panchyat for implementation of the MGNREGA scheme, now rechristened as Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G-RAM G). Further challenge is to the recovery notice No.885

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dated 19.02.2026 (Annexure-3). The petitioner has annexed copies of the representation in response to the notice dated 05.06.2025 (Annexure-2) to the Block Development Officer and also annexed to the writ application is the representation of the petitioner made to the Chief Programme Officer, District MGNREGA i.e. Collector, Jagatsinghpur dated 20.04.2026 (Annexure-4).

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner relies upon the Muster Roll, copy of which has been annexed to the writ application marked as Annexure-6 to submit that the petitioner is not liable to refund any amount as the petitioner has in fact not received any amount in excess.

4. Learned Additional Government Advocate in response submits that the petitioner's grievance will be looked into by the authorities to take a decision in accordance with law.

5. Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the learned Additional Government Advocate, in considered view of this Court, at this stage, the issue does not require any interference from this Court apart from the fact that the petitioner seeks redressal of his grievances expeditiously.

Accordingly, it is directed that the petitioner shall approach the appropriate authority with copy of the demand notice and the corresponding response of the petitioner within a period of four weeks.

The petitioner shall also have the liberty to substantiate his case before the authority with all relevant documents sought to be relied upon. Copies of which shall also be produced.

The authority shall do well to consider the materials on record and take a decision regarding the grievance of the petitioner within a period of six weeks thereafter. The decision so taken shall be intimated to the petitioner.

It is further directed that till the authority takes a final decision in the matter, no coercive action shall be taken against the petitioner pursuant to the recovery letter No.3216 dated 05.06.2025 (Annexure-1) and recovery notice No.885 dated 19.02.2026 (Annexure-3).

It is further observed that this Court has not expressed any opinion regarding merits of the claim of the petitioner or the contentions of the parties to the writ application.

6. The writ application is disposed of with the above observations.

(Mruganka Sekhar Sahoo)
Judge

Rajesh