YOGESH TIWARI
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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPC No. 5394 of 2026

Pankaj Kumar Sangam S/o Late Balram Sangam Aged About 41 Years Presently Working As Teacher (L.B.) At Govt. Upper Primary School, Baniyagaon, Block Bakawand, District Bastar (C.G.). Presently R/o. Block Colony Bakawand, District Bastar (C.G.)

... Petitioner

versus

1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through The Secretary, Department Of Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)

2 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through The Secretary, Department Of School Education, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.).

3 - Director, Directorate Of Public Instructions, Block-3, First Floor, Indrawati Bhawan, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)

4 - High Power Certification Scrutiny Committee, Through Its Member Secretary Cum Director, Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Office At Block 4-D, Ground Floor, Atal Nagar Naya Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)

5 - Secretary, Chhattisgarh State Scheduled Tribes Commission, State Of Chhattisgarh, 61 Jal Vihar Colony, Raipur, District Raipur (C.G.)

6 - Collector (Tribal Development Department), Bijapur, District Bijapur (C.G.)

7 - District Level Certificate Verification Committee, Through Its Member Secretary Cum Assistant Commissioner, Bijapur, District Bijapur (C.G.)

8 - District Education Officer, Bastar (Jagdalpur), District Bastar (C.G.)

9 - Sub Divisional Officer (R), Jagdalpur, District Bastar (C.G.)

... Respondents

(Cause-title taken from Case Information System)

For Petitioner	**:**	Mr. Govind Prasad Dewangan, Advocate
For State	**:**	Mr. Anil Pandey, Govt. Advocate

Hon'ble Shri Amitendra Kishore Prasad, Judge

Order on Board

28.10.2026

1. By filing the present writ petition, the petitioner assails the order/inquiry report dated 06.01.2026 (Annexure P/1) passed by respondent No. 7, the District Level Certificate Verification Committee, Bijapur, District Bijapur (C.G.), whereby the caste certificate issued in favour of the petitioner by the competent authority, i.e., the Sub-Divisional Officer (Revenue), Jagdalpur, District Bastar (C.G.), has been cancelled by holding it to be forged and fabricated, and consequential action has been recommended against the petitioner, including recovery of benefits obtained on the basis of the said certificate and termination of services. The petitioner has prayed for following relief(s) :-

> *"10.1 That, this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to call for the entire records in relates to the case of the petitioner from the possession of respondents for its kind perusal.*
>
> *10.2 That, this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to set aside the impugned order/ inquiry report dated 06.01.2026 (Annexure-*

P/1) issued/ passed by the respondent no.7 i.e. District Level Certificate Verification Committee, Bijapur, District Bijapur (C.G.) holding it to be bad in law and further be pleased to set aside all the consequential proceeding which has been initiated on the basis of the said impugned order/ inquiry report dated 06.01.2026 (Annexure-P/1) and pleased to pass an order for restoration of the caste certificate of the petitioner, in the interest of justice.

10.3 That, this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to grant any other relief/relief's in favour of the petitioner, which the Hon'ble Court deemed fit & just in the facts and circumstances of the case, including awarding of the costs to the petitioner."

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that respondent No. 7, i.e., the District Level Certificate Verification Committee, has acted without jurisdiction in cancelling the caste certificate issued in favour of the petitioner. It is contended that, under the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Regulation of Social Status Certification) Act, 2013, the District Level Certificate Verification Committee is not empowered to cancel a caste certificate issued by the competent authority. Its role is confined to referring the matter, along with the relevant documents and its findings, to the High Power Certification Scrutiny Committee for appropriate action in accordance with law. Learned counsel further submits that the

impugned order has been passed without following the procedure prescribed under the Act and the Rules framed thereunder and, therefore, deserves to be quashed.

3. Per contra, learned State counsel submits that the respondent authorities shall follow the due procedure prescribed under law and take appropriate steps in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions.

4. Having heard learned counsel for the parties and upon perusal of the material available on record, this Court finds that the impugned order/inquiry report dated 06.01.2026 has been passed by respondent No. 7 cancelling the caste certificate issued in favour of the petitioner without issuing notice to the petitioner or affording an opportunity of hearing before taking such action. The impugned order further records consequential recommendations for recovery of benefits obtained by the petitioner and termination of services. Such action, having civil consequences, could not have been taken without following the procedure prescribed by law and adhering to the principles of natural justice. Moreover, the question of verification and cancellation of a caste certificate is required to be dealt with by the authority competent under the applicable statutory provisions. The District Level Certificate Verification Committee cannot assume the powers of the High Power Certification Scrutiny Committee where the statute does not confer such authority upon it.

5. In view of the aforesaid, the order/inquiry report dated 06.01.2026 (Annexure P/1) passed by respondent No. 7, i.e., the District Level Certificate Verification Committee, Bijapur, District Bijapur (C.G.), is hereby quashed. However, liberty is reserved in favour of the respondent authorities to refer the matter to the High Power Certification Scrutiny Committee, if so warranted, in accordance with law. In the event of such a reference, the competent authority shall proceed in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions and afford the petitioner an adequate opportunity of hearing before passing any appropriate order.

6. With the aforesaid observations and directions, the instant writ petition stands allowed. There shall be no order as to costs.

Sd/-

(Amitendra Kishore Prasad)
Judge

Yogesh