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IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.32586 of 2026
CNR No. ODHC010774982026

IB Field Suppliers and Contractor Association, Talcher, Angul .... ***Petitioner***

Mr. S.K. Dalai, Advocate

-versus-

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Sambalpur and others .... ***Opposite Parties***

CORAM:
HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G. SATAPATHY

ORDER
18.11.2026

Order No.

03. 1. Heard Mr. S.K. Dalai, learned counsel for the Petitioner.

2. The Petitioner is the Contractor Association operating for the works granted by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). The Petitioner has challenged the notification dated 3rd September, 2026 issued by the management of MCL mandating implementation of Contract Labour Information Portal (CLIP) with effect from 1st November, 2026 pertaining to the contractors and workers.

3. It is contended on behalf of the Petitioner that the uploading of data in the CLIP should not apply to the existing contracts which were entered into much prior to 1st November, 2026 and it should be applicable to those contracts executed after 1st November, 2026. It is claimed that since MCL is not paying the running bill for every contract, it is difficult on the part of the contractors to make payment to the workers.

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4. We have carefully heard Mr. Dalai, learned counsel for the Petitioner and perused the record. We disagree with the submission with regard to non-application of the CLIP in respect of existing contracts as on 1st November, 2026. It is considered that this is a step taken by the management for the benefit of the poor workers. The workers who were receiving their wages on daily basis should not wait for payment of their wages depending on the contract between the contractor and the management. The statutory provision in this regard is very clear that the wages of the poor workers particularly daily wagers should not be hampered or obstructed for any dispute between the Contractor and the management. Thus, having not found any convincing ground to interfere with the issuance of notification dated 3rd September, 2026 under Annexure-1, we are not inclined to entertain the writ petition.

5. Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed.

(B.P. Routray)
Acting Chief Justice

(G. Satapathy)
Judge

Mkp/Pks