

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 16579 of 2020

Prafulla Samantara

....

Petitioner

Mr. Iswar Mohanty, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and Others

....

Opposite Parties

Mrs. Saswata Patnaik, Addl. Govt. Advocate

**CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE R.K. PATTANAİK**

**ORDER
28.03.2022**

Order No.

19. 1. An affidavit dated 21st March, 2022 has been filed by the Principal Secretary to Government, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department in response to the order dated 15th February, 2022. It is stated that the data base of beneficiaries under the State Food Securities Scheme is dynamically updated through 378 Ration Card Management System (RCMS) Centres which are functional throughout the year in 314 Blocks and 64 Urban Local Body Offices in the State.
2. It is claimed by the State in the said affidavit that any person seeking food security can apply for a new ration card and the existing beneficiaries can update their cards through these 378 RCMS Centers. It is specifically stated that “no eligible beneficiaries enrolled in the State Food Securities Scheme is denied registration entitlements due to want of linkage of

Aadhaar”. It is pointed out that leprosy affected, old age persons, those with permanent illness, differently abled persons are all treated as special cases and can get the benefit even without Aadhaar.

3. Mrs. Patnaik, learned Additional Government Advocate for the State (Opposite Parties) on instructions states that the Government officials would like to make a presentation to the Court of the steps being taken by the State Government pro-actively to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under the Central scheme and the State sponsored schemes.

4. Learned counsel for the Petitioner refers to an affidavit filed by the Petitioner on 6th January, 2022 which *inter alia* encloses a report of a field study conducted in seven villages in Kalahandi district by the Right to Food Campaign of Odisha and the Lokshakti Abhijan. A copy of the said affidavit has been handed over to Mrs. Patnaik, learned Additional Government Advocate who states that she will have the officials examine it and give their response. The officials of the Government make their presentation in online mode on the next date.

5. List on 19th May, 2022 at 2 pm along with the connected matters listed today.

(Dr. S. Muralidhar)
Chief Justice

(R.K. Pattanaik)
Judge