

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 7469 of 2017

The Registrar (Judicial), Orissa High Court, Cuttack* *Petitioner

Mr. Mohit Agarwal, Amicus Curiae

-versus-

Union of India and Others* *Opposite Parties

Mr. Debakanta Mohanty, AGA and Mr. Tarun Patnaik, ASC for State, The Collector and District Magistrate, Puri, Mr. Sukanta Kumar Dalai, Advocate, Dr. Adish Agarwal, Senior Counsel along with Mr. Akhaya Biswal, Advocate (In I.As.13647, 18110, 18770 & 19200 of 2021 and I.As.1583 and 732 of 2022) and Mr. Bishnu Prasad Pradhan, Advocate (in I.A. No.4462 of 2022)

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

**ORDER
06.04.2022**

Order No.

65. 1. The Court has been shown photographs of removal of the illegal net gheries in Chilika lake that took place on 5th April, 2022. It appears that a total area of Ac.147.86 of net gheries were removed manually in the presence of the police force and two FIRs have been registered.
2. In order to ensure that there is no reemergence of the net gheries that were evicted on 5th April, 2022, a direction is issued that patrolling of the said area will be stepped up and kept continued. A further direction is issued to the Collectors of Puri, Khurda,

Ganjam and Kendrapara to set up a 24 hours helpline number and make it public so that anyone coming to know of an illegal net gheri/prawn gheri activity can immediately report it to the respective Collectors for corrective action. The Collectors of the four districts in co-ordination with the respective Superintendents of Police will also step up the monitoring through police forces to ensure that illegal prawn gheries do not re-remerge after demolition.

**I.As.13647, 18110, 18770 & 19200 of 2021
and I.As.1583 and 732 of 2022**

3. Mr. Debakanta Mohanty, learned Additional Government Advocate seeks some more time to respond to the above I.As., where the Applicants claimed that they are carrying on fish cultivation on their own lands and are, therefore, not violating any law. Let required number of copies of the above I.As. be served on him within three days.

4. Reply be filed at least one week prior to the next date and rejoinder thereto, if any, be filed before the next date.

I.A. No.4462 of 2022

5. Issue notice. Mr. Debakanta Mohanty, learned Additional Government Advocate accepts notice. Since he accepts notice, let a copy of this application be served on him today itself. Reply be filed at least one week prior to the next date and rejoinder thereto, if any, be filed before the next date.

Prayag in Ganjam District

6. Learned Amicus Curiae has handed over a video clip showing extensive illegal prawn gheries in the Prayag area in the Ganjam District. The video is said to have been shot as recently as on 31st March, 2022.

7. Mr. Mohanty, learned Additional Government Advocate acknowledges that the video clip has been received by the Collector, Ganjam, who has assured him that action would be immediately taken to remove the illegal prawn gheries shown there. A compliance report in this regard be filed before the next date. The video clip showing the removal of these illegal gheries shall be placed before the Court by the Collector, Ganjam, on the next date. The Collectors of Kendrapara, Puri, Ganjam and Khurda are requested to remain present on line on the next date.

8. List on 4th May, 2022 at 10.30 AM.

9. An urgent certified copy of this order be issued as per rules.

(Dr. S. Muralidhar)
Chief Justice

(R.K. Pattanaik)
Judge

M. Panda