



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No.- NCST/DEV-4416/JH/38/2025-RU-IV

Date : 17.02.2026

To,

- The Chairman and Managing Director**
West Bengal Power Development Corporation,
C Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban,
Plot-3 La Block Sector-3 Bidhannagar, Kolkata,
West Bengal – 700106
E.mail: cmd@wbpdcl.co.in
- The Chairman and Managing Director**
Punjab State Power Corporation,
Pseb Head Office The Mall,
Patiala, Punjab – 147001
E.mail: 1912@pspl.in Bajaj Finserv
- The Collector & District Magistrate**
District - Pakur,
DC Office Road Saharkol,
Pakur, Jharkhand 816107
E.mail: dc-pak@nic.in

Sub: Request for hearing for exploitation of tribal land oustees by West Bengal Power Development Corporation & Punjab State Power Corporation at Pachwara Coal Mining Project (North & Central) Amrapara, District Pakur, Jharkhand- letter dated 22.01.2025 of Ms. Munni Hansda, Secretary, Tribal Welfare Council, Kathikund, Village + Post – Kathikund, District – Dumka (Jharkhand).

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the sitting held on 22.01.2026 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Asha Lakra, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on the above mentioned subject for information.

Yours faithfully

यो. प्र. यादव / Y. P. Yadav

उप सचिव / Deputy Secretary

E.mail ID: rahul.1424@ncst.nic.in

Copy to:-

Ms. Munni Hansda
Adiwasi Kalyan Parishad Kathikund,
Head Office - Kathikund, Vill And P.O.-Kathikund,
Dist.-Dumka (Jharkhand), Pin-814103,
Mobile No:9431549287

PS to Hon'ble Member (Dr. Asha Lakra)
✓ NIC for uploading



राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
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F. No.NCST/DEV-4416/JH/38/2025-RU-IV

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Asha Lakra, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi in the case of exploitation of tribal land oustees by West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited & Punjab State Power Corporation Limited at Pachwara Coal Mining Project (North & Central) Amrapara, District Pakur, Jharkhand – Complaint dated 22.01.2025 of Adivasi Kalyan Parishad, Head Office - Kathikund, Vill. + PO Kathikund, District Dumka, Jharkhand

Date of hearing: 22.01.2026

Participants Present in the Hearing: As per Annexure – I

Ms MunniHansda, Secretary, Adivasi Kalyan Parishad, Head Office - Kathikund, Vill+PO Kathikund, District Dumka, Jharkhand, vide her letter dated 22.01.2025, has mentioned that WBPDCL has been operating (15+8) MTPA coal mines under Pachwara Coal Mining Project (North & Central) Amrapara, District Pakur, Jharkhand for catering to the power fuel requirement of West Bengal & Punjab State. The petitioner has alleged that West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDCL) & Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL) has been operating the mines illegally through Mine Developer cum Operator (MDO) for 27 years. The petitioner has alleged that innocent tribals are evicted forcefully by the Mine Developer cum Operator (MDO) in cooperation with the local police authorities, further no FIR has been registered by Pakur/local police. The petitioner has alleged that, as per RTI reply from DLAO, Pakur, WBPDCL and PSPCL MSO's company, M/s BGR & DBL Mining Ltd has not acquired any private land for mining purpose and hence contends that such mining operations are illegal. No FIR has been registered by SP Pakur/Local Police Station. Also, legal compensation as declared by Govt. of Jharkhand (i.e. Rs 1.65 Cr/Acre) has not been given to the tribals. NOCs from Gram Sabha are manipulated by District Administration & Project proponents for compliance of Environment & Forest Clearances, Mining Lease etc. Houses of ryots have been demolished and they have not been relocated. In this regard, the petitioner has requested the Commission's intervention with the intent of allowing an opportunity to resolve the discriminatory attitude of WBPDCL & PSPCL and Jharkhand State authorities, so that poor tribals can get proper land compensation, employment etc, R&R benefits and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/ DMFT (District Mineral Foundation Trust) funds for development facilities.

2. In order to obtain factual information in the matter, the Commission issued a notice dated 13.03.2024 to (i) CMD, West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDCL), (ii) CMD, Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL) and (iii) DM, Pakur (Jharkhand), for facts and comments within 15 days.

3. Given the seriousness of the matter, the Commission held a hearing on 30.05.2025 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Member (AL), which was attended by senior officials of WBPDCL, PSPCL, and the District Administration, while CMD, PSPCL sought exemption.

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During the hearing, the Commission noted allegations of improper compensation in cases of multiple landowners and demolition of houses without rehabilitation, whereas WBPDCCL stated that land acquisition and compensation for Pachwara North Coal Mine had been completed in 2011–12 by the previous allottee under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and that current mining activities were a continuation of earlier operations. The Commission recommended the following during the hearing:

- i. A detailed report regarding the acquisition of the above-mentioned land, including:
 - The authority or agency that undertook the acquisition,
 - The date on which the acquisition was carried out,
 - The names of the ryots (landowners) who received compensation, along with complete land particulars, details of employment provided, and information regarding their relocation.
 - The bank details (name of bank and account numbers) where the compensation amounts were deposited.
- ii. A comprehensive explanation of the process followed for the land acquisition, along with submission of the minutes of the stakeholders' meetings held in this regard. These documents shall be submitted to the Commission for review.
- iii. A detailed list of all previous allottees who have undertaken mining activities on the said land, including:
 - The legal rights under which the land was acquired or allotted for mining,
 - The names of the companies currently or previously involved in mining operations on the said land.
- iv. The Commission shall undertake a visit to the above-mentioned land in the near future.

4. Action Taken Report (ATR) dated 11.07.2025 on the Commission's Recommendations were received from District Collector, Pakur forwarding the consolidated ATR report post meeting with concerned authorities and stakeholders of WBPDCCL, PSPCL and Pachwara Coal Mining Project (North & Central) and District Administration, Pakur. The Action Taken Report states that land acquisition for the Pachwara North and Central Coal Mining Projects was undertaken through Bengal Emta Coal Mines Ltd. and Panem Coal Mines Ltd., as per Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Acquisition for Pachwara North was completed between 2010–2013, while Pachwara Central was acquired earlier during 2002–2005. Village-wise details of ryots, compensation, and R&R benefits have been furnished, with 131 families of Bishunpur and 181 families of Chilgo have been rehabilitated, as per Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013; further 376 individuals have been provided employment in WBPDCCL and the remaining rehabilitation cases are under process. Compensation was paid through account payee cheques with complete bank records maintained. The report further confirms that statutory procedures were followed and that mining operations are being carried out by authorized entities associated with WBPDCCL and PSPCL.

5. A copy of reply was sent to concerned portioners and Rejoinder dated 24.07.2025 was received from petitioner, through which it was informed that the facts presented in ATR by the concerned authorities are irrelevant and misleading. The petitioner stated that acquisitions done through Bengal Emta Coal Mines Ltd and Panem Coal Mines Ltd is misleading. The misinterpretation of 'prior allottee' clause has been done by WBPDCCL to continue unauthorized mining. The petitioner further adds that land compensation for Chilgo R&R site should be done as per India's Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act 2013); and land compensation be paid to families of Kathaldih Katha.

6. The Commission, based on rejoinder received from the petitioner, issued a Sitting Notice dated 13.01.2026 to the Chairman and Managing Director of West Bengal Power Development Corporation & Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab State Power Corporation, Collector & District Magistrate, District – Pakur.

7. During the hearing held on 22.01.2026, CMD, WBPDCCL; Director (Mining), WBPDCCL; CMD, PSPCL; CE – Fuel, PSPCL; CE – PSPCL; Deputy CE PSPCL; DLAO, Pakur; Concerned petitioners and affected families from Pachwara Coal Mining Project area were present. (Attendance Sheet:Annexure-I). Deputy Commissioner, Pakur vide his letter 17.01.2026, sought

10/1

exemption from personal appearance during the meeting and nominated DLAO, Pakur to attend the hearing.

8. During the hearing, the petitioners raised the issue that rehabilitation process in 10 villages has not been completed as per R&R Act 2013. They also alleged that the employment provided is only under unskilled labor on contractual basis, and skill-based employment should be provided. The petitioners also raised the issue where in case of multiple owners, settlement has only been done for one owner and no compensation was provided to remaining legal owners. The petitioners also raised the issue of unavailability of safe drinking water resources, schools in resettled areas and damaging of house structure due to mining activities.

9. In response, CMD, WBPCL informed the Commission that 10 mouzas (Villages) have been acquired, namely Sakalma, Pachwara, Singhdehari, Bishunpur, Chirudih, Dhamnichua, Littipada, Kathaldih, Chilgo and Dangapada, and the rehabilitation is being done in phased manner to minimize inconvenience to already settled tribal inhabitants. At present, 131 families of Bishunpur and 181 families of Chilgo have been rehabilitated, as per Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act, 2013 and resettlement of affected families in Sakalma is planned next as per R&R Act 2013. The authorities have informed that the land acquisition for the Pachwara North and Central Coal Mining Projects was initially undertaken through Bengal Emta Coal Mines Ltd and was later allocated to WBPCL by M/o Coal vide allotment order dated 31st March 2015, further Mining Lease for non-forest land has also been granted to WBPCL in the years 2018 and 2023. Further Project Affected Persons (PAPs) have been provided individual compensation, rehabilitation and common facilities to families as per R&R Act, 2013. WBPCL also submitted a detailed report on Rehabilitation, Compensation, CSR, Employment, Skill training and other developments done for affected person and families in Pachwara North Coal Mines.

10. **Based on the Observations of facts and documents presented by both the parties during the hearing dated 22.01.2026, the Commission recommends the following:**

- a. WBPCL and PSPCL may, through utilisation of their CSR funds, ensure the supply of safe and potable drinking water in all the affected villages.
- b. WBPCL and PSPCL may, through CSR funds, ensure repair of the already existing houses situated in the buffer areas which have been affected due to mining activities. The authorities may also ensure 24x7 clean drinking water supply in all resettled colonies and mining areas.
- c. The authorities of WBPCL and PSPCL may provide employment to the affected families/persons based on their skill sets, and wherever feasible, employment may be provided as skilled labour.
- d. The Deputy Commissioner, Pakur District may constitute a committee to settle the matter in coordination with the concerned authorities of WBPCL and PSPCL and local village representatives, including affected persons/families allegedly left out in the already rehabilitated areas.
- e. Hence, this matter is closed by the Commission.

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10/02/2026

(Dr. Asha Lakra)
Member

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

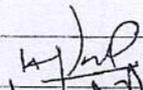
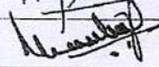
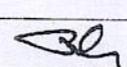
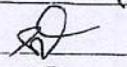
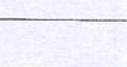
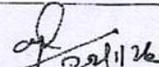
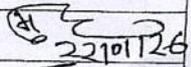
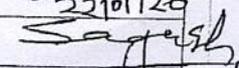
डॉ. आशा लक्ष्मी / Dr. Asha Lakra
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

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Attendance Sheet
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

NCST/DEV-4416/JH/38/2025-RU-IV

Sitting to be held on 22.01.2026 at 12.20 P.M- Request for hearing for exploitation of tribal land oustees by West Bengal Power Development Corporation & Punjab State Power Corporation at Pachwara Coal Mining Project (North & Central) Amrapara, District Pakur, Jharkhand- letter dated 22.01.2025 of Ms. Munni Hansda, Secretary, Tribal Welfare Council, Kathikund, Village + Post – Kathikund, District – Dumka (Jharkhand).

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I National Commission for Scheduled Tribes			
1.	Dr. Asha Lakra Humble Member	In Chair	P
2.	Shri Yogendra Prasad Yadav Deputy Secretary		-
3.	Shri H.R. Meena Consultant		P
4.	Mrs. Sonal Raj Sr. Investigator		P
5.	Shri Rahul Investigator		P
6.	Ms. Riya Investigator		P
7.	Shri Rahul Yadav Legal Consultant		P
8.			
II Officers from O/o CMD, West Bengal Power Development Corporation, West Bengal			
1.	P.B. SALIM IAS	CMD, WBPDC	
2.	G. GOSWAMI	DIRECTOR (MINING) WBPDC	
3.			
4.			
III Officers from O/o Chairman And Managing Director, Punjab State Power Corporation, Punjab			
1.	BASANT GARU IAS	CMD, PSPCL	
2.	Sat Parkash Singh	CE / fuel, PSPCL	
3.	VPS KAILASH	CE, PSPCL	
4.	S.M. CHOPRA	Ex. CE / PSPCL	
IV Officers from O/o Deputy Commissioner, District - Pakur			
1.	A.S. Baran	DLAO, Pakur	
2.			
3.			
4.			
V Petitioners			
1.	Hemant Singh	8602319532	
2.	Sagar Singh	8895302111	
3.	+ 16 others		