

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK**

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

***The Registrar Judicial, Orissa High Court. .... Petitioner***

Mr. Mohit Agarwal, Amicus Curiae  
-versus-

***Union of India and Others .... Opposite Parties***

Mr. Ashok Kumar Parija, Advocate General  
along with Mr. M.S. Sahoo, Additional Government Advocate  
Mr. S.K. Dalai, Advocate  
For the Interveners

**CORAM:  
THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
JUSTICE S.K. PANIGRAHI**

**ORDER  
22.06.2021**

**Order No.**

56. 1. This matter is taken up by video conferencing mode.
2. Learned Amicus Curiae has submitted a report setting out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984; Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2019 which would stand attracted, as a result of the operation of the illegal prawn gheries operation for the stoppage of which directions have been issued by this Court from time to time.
3. Learned Advocate General appearing for the State (Opposite Parties) assures the Court that although a number of FIRs have been registered, the above note will be examined and wherever

warranted, either the above provisions will be added those FIRs or separate FIRs will be registered.

4. This Court directs that on the next date a separate report be presented before this Court by Office of the Advocate General, Odisha on the number of complaints filed and provisions under which against those FIRs have been registered against the offenders in a chronological order since January 2021 onwards.

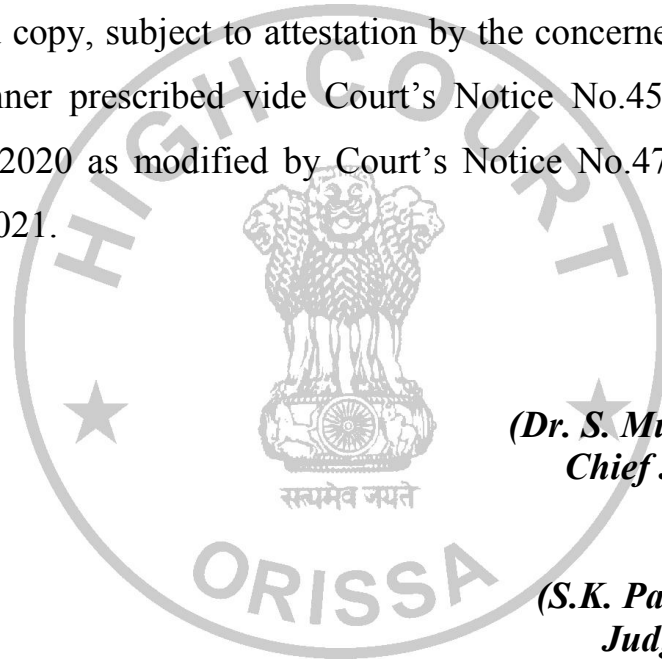
5. Learned Advocate General further states that additional platoons of police forces have been deployed in the areas where action is being taken against the illegal operation of prawn gheries and that sufficient progress has been made in this regard. He has placed before the Court notes on the measures taken for removal of illegal prawn gheries in Kendrapara and Khurda districts. This apart, the Office of the Collector and District Magistrate, Kendrapara has placed a separate compilation of the FIRs registered against the offenders in the area.

6. This Court would like to once again emphasize the need for prompt corrective action without let or hindrance by all State authorities acting in close co-operation. The Collectors of Puri, Ganjam, Kendrapara and Khurda will by the next date file updated status reports by way of affidavits on the action taken to remove the illegal prawn gheries in their respective districts. The report of the Collector, Khurda district will specifically address the issues raised by the learned Amicus Curiae in the report submitted by him today on the existence of such illegal prawn gheries by way of encroachment both within and on the fringes of the Chilika lake.

7. The personal appearance of the Collectors are dispensed with till the next date.

8. List on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at 2 P.M.

9. As the restrictions due to resurgence of COVID-19 situation are continuing, learned counsel for the parties may utilize a printout of the order available in the High Court's website, at par with certified copy, subject to attestation by the concerned advocate, in the manner prescribed vide Court's Notice No.4587, dated 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 as modified by Court's Notice No.4798, dated 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.



**(Dr. S. Muralidhar)**  
**Chief Justice**

**(S.K. Panigrahi)**  
**Judge**

S.K. Jena/P.A.