



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-4426/MRLY/2/2025-RO-BHUV/RU-IV

Date : 17.02.2026

To

1. **The Chief Secretary**
Government of Odisha,
Lokseba Bhawan, Odisha Secretariat,
Bhubaneswar, Khordha, Odisha 751001
Email Id: csori@nic.in
2. **The Additional Chief Secretary**
Revenue and Disaster Management Department,
Government of Odisha,
Lokasaba Bhavan, Bhubaneswar,
Khordha, Odisha 751001
Email Id: revsec.od@nic.in
3. **The General Manager,**
East Coast Railway,
Rail Sadan, Chandrasekharpur,
Bhubaneswar, Khordha, Odisha 751017
Email Id: gm@ecor.railnet.gov.in
4. **The Director General of Police Odisha,**
State Police Headquarters, Buxi Bazar,
Cuttack, Odisha 753001
Email Id: sphqrs.odpol@nic.in
5. **The Collector And District Magistrate,**
District – Sundargarh,
O/o The Collector Cum District Magistrate,
Collectrate Sundargarh, Sundargarh,
Odisha 770001
Email Id: dm-sundargarh@od.gov.in

Sub: Representation dated 18/02/2025 of Shri Sambaru Majhi and others of Village- Dhudhi, Post- Khuntagaon, PS- Lahunipada, District- Sundargarh, Odisha regarding alleged harassment in the matter of land acquisition in connection with 'Talcher-Bimlagarh' Railway Project in Odisha.

Sir/Madam,

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 necessary action.

It is requested that compliance report in the matter on the recommendation may be furnished to this Commission within 30 days positively for placing the same before the Hon'ble Commission.

Yours faithfully

यो. प्र. यादव / Y. P. Yadav

उप सचिव / Deputy Secretary

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

Copy to:-

Shri Sambaru Majhi and others,
Village-Dhudi, Post-Khuntagaon,
PS-Lahunipada, District- Sundargarh, Odisha – 770044,
Mobile No.8895236453

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)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

NCST/DEV-4426/MRLY/2/2025-RO-BHUV/RU-III

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 representation dated 18/02/2025 of Shri Sambaru Majhi and others of Village- Dhudhi, Post- Khuntagaon, PS- Lahunipada, District- Sundargah, Odisha in land acquisition matter of railway project.

Date of hearing: 22.01.2026

Participants Present in the Hearing: As per Annexure – I

A representation dated 18/02/2025 of Shri Sambaru Majhi and others of Village- Dhudhi, Post- Khuntagaon, PS- Lahunipada, District- Sundargah, Odisha – 770044. The petitioner grievance is related to the land acquisition issues, in connection with the extension work of the railway project connecting Talcher in Angul district of Odisha and Bimlagarh in Sundargarh district of Odisha. The petitioner has alleged that, 29 (twenty-nine) villages of three blocks, viz., Lahunipada, Koida and Bonaigarh of Sundargarh districts were largely affected by the above-mentioned railway project. It is further alleged in the petition that, Grama Sabha has not been called for, prior to land acquisition, for the above-mentioned railway project. That, it is also alleged that, affected people were compelled with help of police to receive compensation money. That, the matter has already been taken to notice of the Collector, Sundargarh, along with others, by the "Talcher-Bimlagarh Rail PrakalpaPrabhabitaPrajaSangathan." The petitioner has submitted that the affected families were neither resettled nor rehabilitated.

2. In order to obtain factual information in the matter, the Commission issued a Notice dated 03.03.2025 to (i) Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha, (ii) Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Deptt. Govt of Odisha and (iii) DGP, Odisha (iv) Collector DM, Sundargarh Distt. (v) General Manager, East Coast Railways, for facts and comments within 15 days.

3. Replies on the Commission's Notice were received from the Additional Secretary, Revenue & DM Department, Vide letter No.13643, dated 10.04.2025; Superintendent of Police, HRPC, Odisha, Cuttack, vide letter no. 2152/HRPC, dated 03/04/2025; Collector & DM, Sundargarh, vide letter no. 1066/Judl, dated 07/03/2025 and the Chief Engineer (Con-II), East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar, vide letter no. CE/Con/II/BBS/01/2025/713, dated 17/03/2025.

4. The replies were forwarded to the concerned petitioners and the petitioners vide their Rejoinder dated 16.10.2025 expressed their dissatisfaction with the authorities reply.

5. Given the seriousness of the matter and based on the Rejoinder submitted by the petitioners, the Commission held a hearing on 22.01.2026, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Member (AL), which was attended by Additional Secretary, Revenue & DM Department, Govt of Odisha; DyCE, CEA and other Officers from East Coast Railways; Sub Collector, Bonai; Additional SP Rourkela and concerned petitioners of the matter.

आशा लक्रा

Pg 1/3

6. The concerned authorities based on the reply to the Commission, submitted the following:

- Sundargarh District is a Scheduled Area. The number of tribal awardees whose land has been acquired for the Talcher–Bimlagarh new B.G. Rail Link Project is 2322, which constitutes 57.50% of the total land oustees.
- Regarding the allegation that no Gram Sabha was conducted, it is stated that Focus Group Discussion/Public Hearing was conducted by Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, State SIA (Social Impact Assessment) Unit, Bhubaneswar, Odisha for all of the affected 29 villages in Sundargarh District.
- On the issue of improper demarcation and forcible construction on private land, it is clarified that re-demarcation of the acquired land for construction of the Talcher–Bimlagarh Rail Link Project is being conducted in the presence of plot owners, Tahasildars, Land Acquisition Officer and the Railway Authority since 28th February, 2025 to address discrepancies raised by villagers.
- With respect to allegations of use of police and middlemen to threaten awardees and fixation of compensation at ₹1100 per decimal, it is stated that the compensation amount is determined by the Land Acquisition Zone Officer (LAZO), Government of Odisha, Sundargarh, and disbursed to land oustees by LAZO himself. No such incidence regarding use of police or middlemen is within the knowledge of Railway.
- Regarding acquisition of Government land used by tribal villagers for agriculture and housing: No details of such Government land were furnished in the representation, it is difficult to ascertain whether such land has been alienated. If any such acquisition comes to notice during execution of project work, compensation as per extant rules will be paid.
- It is stated that requisitions for acquisition of private land are filed with the Land Acquisition Officer based on certified copies of RoRs. After scrutiny and field verification, compensation is determined under the RFCTLARR Act and disbursed to recorded tenants/RoR holders or their legal heirs, and construction is carried out only after physical possession is taken.
- As per the Certificate regarding Rehabilitation & Resettlement of all the affected villages, no habitation has been displaced and hence there is no plan for Rehabilitation & Resettlement. No assurance has ever been given by the Railway for providing employment assistance to land oustees.

7. The petitioners have further submitted that proper land demarcation has not been carried out and that areas beyond the notified demarcation are being utilized for construction of the railway project. They have alleged that compensation for existing residential houses has been paid only for a portion of the structures and not for the entire built-up area, and that no compensation has been provided for commercial tree plantations, areas used for keeping animals, or for loss of livestock. It has also been stated that unplanned dumping of soil and construction material for the railway project has led to the creation of bunds/embankments, resulting in flooding in the affected villages. Additionally, the petitioners have alleged that tribal villagers are being forcibly evicted from government land traditionally used by them for agriculture and housing, and that they are being subjected to harassment and intimidation by contractors and supervisors, allegedly with the assistance of the local police.

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

- I. In this matter, the District Collector may conduct a joint field visit to address the issue, carry out an enquiry regarding land boundary demarcation, and constitute a committee for land demarcation.

L. S. D. (Collector)

- II. The concerned authorities may furnish a detailed and chronological account of the land acquisition process, clearly indicating the authority responsible at each stage.
- III. The authorities may provide the amount of compensation determined by the Land Acquisition Officer, along with the methodology adopted for its assessment, and submit a copy of the compensation calculation forwarded to the Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Odisha, to the Commission.
- IV. A comprehensive list of beneficiaries who have received compensation may be submitted, along with their respective bank details.
- V. The Action Taken Report (ATR) may be submitted to the Commission within 30 days.

21/2/2026
10/02/2026

(Dr. Asha Lakra)
Member

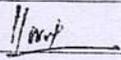
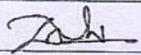
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

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

Attendance Sheet
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

NCST/DEV-4426/MRLY/2/2025-RO-BHUV/RU-IV

Sitting to be held on 22.01.2026 at 04.00 P.M- Representation of Shri Sambaru Majhi and others of Village- Dhudhi, Post- Khuntagaon, PS- Lahunipada, District- Sundargarh, Odisha regarding alleged harassment in the matter of land acquisition in connection with 'Talcher-Bimlagarh' Railway Project in Odisha.

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I National Commission for Scheduled Tribes			
1.	Dr. Asha Lakra Hon'ble 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.			
9.			
II Officers from O/o Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha,			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
III Officers from O/o Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Odisha			
1.	Diganta Routroy, Additional Secretary	63715/2137	
2.			
3.			
4.			
IV Officers from O/o General Manager, East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar, Odisha			
1.	Dushmanta Meher, Dy. Secy	6455585261	
2.	Saswat Das, CIA/cr	8455589146	SDM
3.	Sanjay Kumar, JCR		
4.			
IV Officers from O/o Director General of Police Odisha,			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

IV Officers from O/o Collector And District Magistrate, District - Sundargarh			
1.	Abshay Pillay, Sub-Collector Bonai	9977816667	22/01/26
2.			
3.	Hare Krishna Meeth, Add. CP. Rocet Kela	8895101801	22/1/26
4.			
IV Petitioners			
1.	Rajesh Kumar	6370613280	
2.	Sambarn Majhi	8895236453	
3.	Rohini Kanta Malpate	8371028316	
4.	Manohar Barla	8895821415	