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WPC PIL 14046/2022 FILED IN HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA IN THE MATTER OF DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE BY CUTTING AGE OLD TREES FOR MLA COLONY IN BHUBANESWAR

09 09 2022 FIND COST OF 870 TREES CUT FOR MLAS HOUSING PROJECT HC

TNN 09 09 2022

Find cost of 870 trees cut for MLAs housing project: HC

LALMOHAN.PATNAIK / TNN / Sep 9, 2022, 08:54 IST

CUTTACK : The Orissa high court has directed the state government to constitute an expert body to calculate the cost of 870 trees felled to build multi-storeyed residential quarters for legislators in Bhubaneswar.

The order came on a PIL filed by Cuttack-based social activist Jayanti Das against the cutting of trees for the Rs 549. 41-crore MLA Colony project in the capital.

A two-judge bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice Chittaranjan Dash directed the government on Wednesday to complete the exercise within four weeks and file a supplementary affidavit.

Additionally, it asked the government to explain if there was any set of guidelines followed by the divisional forest officer of Bhubaneswar while granting permission for felling trees for the project. The bench posted the matter for hearing on November 17.

The state government had stated in its affidavit to the court that the divisional forest officer accorded permission for conversion and disposal of 870 trees, subject to the condition that the project proponent would plant 8,700 trees or deposit Rs 68. 70 lakh, as per the plantation norms of 2021. The Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation had already deposited the amount, it stated.