

## **NEW LINK TO MEDIA # 2**

**WPC PIL 11180/2014 FILED IN HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA ORDER DATED 17 NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE MATTER OF ILLEGALITIES AND IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED BY LARSEN & TUBRO LIMITED IN CONSTRUCTING SEWERAGE WORKS AT CUTTACK TOWN**

**SUO MOTU PIL WPC PIL 2140/2020 FILED IN HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA BY REGISTRAR(JUDICIAL) VS STATE OF ORISSA ORDER DATED 20 JANUARY, 2020 IN JICA SEWERAGE MATTER**

**Orissa High Court seeks explanation on delay of JICA project in Bhubaneswar**

**The Bench took judicial note of the hardships posed due to the unending digging up of roads as part of the project work and accompanying traffic problems.**

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**By Express News Service**

**CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court on Monday issued notices to the authorities concerned over the ongoing JICA-funded integrated sanitation project undertaken by the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB) in the city.**

**The division bench of Acting Chief Justice Sanju Panda and Justice SK Sahoo issued the notices after suo motu registering a PIL on the prolonged problems faced by the residents due to inordinate delay in completion of the project.**

**The Bench took judicial note of the hardships posed due to the unending digging up of roads as part of the project work and accompanying traffic problems. Notices were issued to the Secretary of Works department, Commissioner of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and OWSSB authorities to file their responses by February 3, the date fixed for hearing on the case.**

**Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone of the project in October 2012 with July 2016 as deadline for its completion. But the project work is far from completion. The JICA project envisages a sewage system with an underground gravity sewer line of 385 km. So far, roads have been dug up for completion of 292 km of sewerage line.**

**The problems were first brought to the notice of Orissa Human Rights Commission (OHRC) by Jayanti Das, a city-based social activist in October last year. Acting on it, the OHRC had directed for formation of a four-member committee headed by the CMC Commissioner to monitor the JICA project.**

**The rights panel also felt that there was lack of coordination between different departments of the Government and JICA project officials. The committee has a representative of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Cuttack, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Cuttack and Planning Member of CDA as the three other members.**

**Smt. Jayanti Das vs State Of Odisha & Others on 17 November, 2014**

**HIGH COURT OF ORISSA: CUTTACK.**

**W.P(C) No.11180 of 2014**

**In the matter of an application under Articles 226 and 277 of the Constitution of India.**

<b>Smt. Jayanti Das</b>	.....	<b>Petitioner</b>
<b>Versus</b>		
<b>State of Odisha &amp; others</b>	.....	<b>Opp. Parties</b>

**For Petitioner : Mr. L.N.Patel, Advocate**

**For Opp. Parties : Mr.J.Katikia, Advocate**

**(O.P-5)**

**Mr.R.K.Mohapatra Govt. Advocate**

**P R E S E N T:**

**THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. AMITAVA ROY**

**AND THE HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE A.K.RATH Date of hearing: 17.11.2014 Date of Judgment: 17.11.2014**

**Dr. A.K. Rath, J.**

Alleging several illegalities and irregularities committed by Larsen & Tubro Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the L&T Company") in constructing sewerage works at Cuttack town, the petitioner, who is a public spirited person, has filed this writ petition.

2. Adumbrated, in brief, the case of the petitioner is that the Commissionerate of Police has not kept a vigil on the functioning of L&T Company, which is the authorized contractor of Japan International Cooperation Agency (in short, "the JICA"), resulting in the public inconveniences. The petitioner made an application under the Right to **Information Act** on 26.4.2014 seeking information from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack about the permission granted by the police to JICA and the role and responsibilities of the Commissionerate of Police regarding maintenance of law and order and traffic jam. The reply given by the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) reveals that the L&T Company, opposite party no.5, flouted the permission granted by the police. It is further stated that neither the L&T Company nor the Commissionerate of Police so also the contractors, who are engaged for

construction work of JICA project, have not taken into consideration the problem faced by the people of Cuttack city. In fact in para-7 of the writ petition, the petitioner has given a vivid detail of the illegalities and irregularities committed by the aforesaid agency. With the factual scenario, the petitioner has prayed, inter alia, to stop the project work of JICA in Cuttack city in monsoon season, cover all ditches/holes made by JICA before monsoon every year for public safety, to constitute a committee to look into the affairs of the JICA project and to formulate a contingency fund of L&T Company which shall be 20% of the project cost in the event of any damage or untoward incident caused due to project.

3. Pursuant to issuance of notice, a detailed counter affidavit has been filed by the opposite party no.5. The sum and substance of the case of the opposite party no.5 is that JICA is a funding agency. The said agency is funding through Government of India to the Orissa Integrated Sanitation Improvement Project (hereinafter referred to as "the OISIP") to execute three types of works in Cuttack city, such as, (I) Sewerage works, (II) Drainage works, and (III) Sewage Treatment Plant (in short, "the STP"). The sewerage works have been undertaken by the L&T Company through Odisha Water Supply & Sewerage Board (hereinafter referred to as "the OWSSB") whereas drainage works have been undertaken by the Tania & Voltas and STP is carried out by VA Tech and Wabag. All the construction activities with regard to sewerage works are being executed through trained safety security staffs and supervised by efficient trained personnel. The motto of L&T Company is to execute the challenging job of sewerage works in the clumsy Cuttack city with all oddities and no inconvenience to the general public. The L&T Company has sacrosanctly adhered to the terms and conditions and taken all precautionary measures as per the permission letter received from the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic). Before granting permission, the traffic officials visited the site, confirmed the precautionary measures to be taken at the time of execution of the work at a particular site. The L&T Company has got necessary traffic diversion road permission and installed the sign boards, which indicate the nature of work and the precautionary measures to be taken. The required numbers of stoppage boards have been submitted during execution and the proper illumination is ensured during night works. The security and safety personnel are available for diversion of traffic and traffic management. Traffic wardens are also available at the site. The L&T Company also obtains road cutting permission before execution of the work at any site. The required numbers of security personnel have been deployed for execution of sewerage work. The work is being carried out on round the clock basis and security personnel also working round the clock in shifts. The Traffic Department has also deployed required number of staff from their end and L&T Company has also deployed sufficient traffic personnel as instructed by the Traffic Police Department. The L&T Company obtains necessary permission to dig the roads and carries out the same in accordance with

the terms and conditions. After obtaining permission, public notice had been issued to the Traffic Department in shape of advertisements in different newspapers including "The Samaj" making aware of the general public about the sewerage works undertaken by the L&T Company. The locations where the night work is being carried out, the L&T Company provides proper illumination for smooth traffic movement. The security personnel have been deployed by the L&T Company for smooth traffic management. The public grievance cells have been made functional in coordination with the Cuttack Municipal Corporation for proper coordination between the public and the L&T Company. The general public are regularly being made aware about the short term inconvenience for execution of the work. Duration of the work has been intimated to the department. The L&T Company personnel with required qualifications and ample experience are deployed at all work sites and monitored by the experienced Senior Managers. The decisions are taken by all such officials and employees of the L&T Company at the site for the respective portion of the work. The materials required for particular stretch of work are mobilized at the site and as and when the work is completed, left out materials are shifted to the next working location. Considering the condition of the work place, three big stockyards on the outskirts have been kept reserved to keep the materials which are brought to the work location only when the same is required. The minimum construction materials are stacked at the work site to reduce the public inconvenience. The usual works are being executed during day shift and as and when required trained personnel are left work in the night shift. Care is taken to close the open trenches before closing of the day. Proper barricading, displaying sign/diversion boards to prevent accident at night are carefully ensured. The L&T Company has been following all the instructions in letter and spirit including the road safety and traffic. The Traffic Department, time and again, is checking the functioning of the L&T Company. Further, the L&T Company has been operating a public grievance cell in coordination with the Cuttack Municipal Corporation since May, 2014. The L&T Company has also organized road safety awareness programme for the public and also set up Jalachhatra Kendra during summer season. The L&T Company has kept the required cautioning boards. As per the requirement, the local people are engaged according to the eligibility and qualification with a view to give employment. It is further stated that the work at Mahammadia Bazar was started in the month of November, but due to local procession and local interference, the works could not be completed within forty five days for which the L&T Company had to close the construction activities. As the work could not be restarted for a period of five months ahead of pre-closer, the road was restored and the same will be started after monsoon. The L&T Company constructed the road at limited location during monsoon to ensure that there is no water logging. The JICA is also executing storm water drainage work to remove water logging for Cuttack city which is to be made operative. In monsoon, the L&T Company is taking sincere steps to close the existing ditches. Various public awareness programmes have been conducted across the city. It is further stated that

steps have been taken by the L&T Company to close the existing ditches to avoid water logging during monsoon.

4. The Cuttack is a millennium city. It has several problems. The conditions of the road and drain in most part of the city are in deplorable condition for which in some parts of the city, the people are living in an unhygienic condition. There is no water sewerage treatment plant. To obviate these difficulties, JICA is funding through Government of India to the OISIP to execute three types of works in Cuttack city. The sewerage work is being undertaken by L&T Company through OWSSB. The agreement dated 30.01.2013 entered into between the OWSSB and L&T Company shows that the work is to be completed within 36 months. It is a big project. At the time of execution of the work, people face immense difficulties. As would be evident from the contents of the counter affidavit, sufficient steps have been taken by the L&T Company to avoid the accident. The L&T Company has also conducted several awareness camps and deployed its personnel at the working site to prevent any untoward incident. Thus it is too early to come to a definite finding that L&T Company is not executing the work in a proper perspective. But then, one fact cannot be lost sight of. At the time of construction, the L&T Company used to dig holes. If an untoward incident happens, then precious life will be lost. To avoid the said untoward incident, we direct that, apart from providing required number of display boards pertaining to diversion of traffic at the working sites, the opposite parties shall also take steps for proper illumination during night and provide sufficient number of security personnel to avoid traffic congestion. We further direct the opposite parties to take sufficient precautionary steps to avoid water logging during monsoon.

With the aforesaid direction, the writ petition is disposed of.

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DR. A.K.RATH, J.

AMITAVA ROY, C.J. : I agree.

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AMITAVA ROY, C.J Orissa High Court, Cuttack.

The 17th November, 2014/pks

**Registrar(Judicial) vs State Of Orissa on 20 January, 2020**

**W.P.(C) PIL No. 2140 of 2020**

**Registrar(Judicial)**

**Orissa High Court       .....       Petitioner**

**-Vrs-**

**State of Orissa       .....       Opp. Parties**

**02. 20.01.2020       This is a suo motu writ petition in the form of PIL.**

**Taking into account newspaper report relating to a lot of inconvenience faced by the public in general in the Millennium City of Cuttack and mainly the pedestrians while moving in the roads/lanes/bylanes on account of pitiable condition of the road inside the city and also snapping up electric cables and telephone cables, damaging of the underground drinking water pipes at many places and thereby hampering the supply of potable water, on account of the drainage and sewerage projects of Cuttack City undertaken by a Japanese governmental agency i.e. Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) since more than seven years and in spite of the assurance given by the JICA authorities from time to time to the State Administration to complete the project work at an earliest, there is no such**

visible progress, registry is directed to issue notice to the

(1) State Government through Secretary, Works  
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Department (2) Commissioner, Cuttack Municipal  
Corporation (3) Chief Engineer, Orissa Water Supply and  
Sewerage Board (OWSSB), Cuttack (4) Project Director,  
JICA, Cuttack (5) Superintending Engineer, Roads &  
Building Circle, Cuttack.

Copy of the draft report prepared by the Registrar  
General of this Court be served on the learned Government  
Advocate on behalf of opposite parties nos. 1, 3 and 5  
during the course of the day who shall obtain instruction  
from the said opposite parties and file response.

Let a special messenger notice be sent to opposite  
parties nos. 2 and 4 asking them to file their show cause  
affidavit by the next date indicating specifically as to in  
which wards/areas of the Cuttack City, the project work has  
already been completed, where it is partly completed and  
what time it will take to complete the work in those specific  
areas and in which wards/areas, work has not commenced  
at all. The affidavit has to further indicate what  
precautionary measures the authorities have taken for  
smooth passage of the pedestrian on the road where the  
works are in progress as well as for preventing any kind of

accident at the construction site. The State Counsel shall obtain instruction as to whether the JICA authorities have given any undertaking before the Government to complete the project work within stipulated period and what is deadline set for the works undertaken by JICA and how many accidents cases have been reported in connection with such project work.

List this matter on 03.02.2020.

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S. Panda  
Acting Chief Justice

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S. K. Sahoo, J.