



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 77 of 2025

Suo Moto PIL in the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation, Regarding Ohe Se Jhulse Yuvak Ka Elaj Krane Se Railway Piche Hta, Parijan Ho Rhe Presaan, Railway Afsaro Ka Kahna-Theka Agency Ko Diye Nirdesh, Based On News Item Published In Daily News Paper Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur, Dated 27 August 2025.

... Petitioner(s)

versus

1. Union of India Through The Secretary, Ministry of Railway, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. South Eastern Central Railway Through General Manager, New Gm Building, Bilaspur Zone, Bilaspur (C.G.)
3. Divisional Railway Manager, SECR Through South Eastern Central Railway Zone, Bilaspur (C.G.)
4. The Chief Engineer South Eastern Central Railway Zone, Bilaspur, (C.G.)
5. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager South Eastern Central Railway Zone, Bilaspur (C.G.)
6. Kumar Engineering Bhilai Through Its Director Distt.- Durg (C.G.)

... Respondent(s)

Order Sheet

28/08/2025	<p data-bbox="630 371 1066 409">This is an office reference.</p> <p data-bbox="533 488 1430 958">This public interest litigation petition has been registered <i>suo moto</i> by this Court on the basis of a news item published in Hindi Daily, namely ‘Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur’ dated 27.08.2025 with a heading “ओएचई से झुलसे युवक का इलाज कराने से रेलवे पीछे हटा, परिजन हो रहे परेशान”.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1037 1430 1933">The aforesaid news highlights a tragic case of a young man who sustained severe burns after coming into contact with the Overhead Equipment (OHE) while repairing a leakage in an AC coach at the Railway Coaching Depot, Bilaspur. His condition remains critical, and he is currently undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital, Bilaspur. The family of the victim is unable to bear the mounting medical expenses, and they are made to run between the Divisional Railway Manager (<i>for short, the DRM</i>) Office and the Coaching Depot in search of help.</p>

Railway officials are reported to have attempted to distance themselves from responsibility, claiming that there is no provision for compensation or medical assistance for contract workers. They have directed the contractor to bear the entire cost. The victim is a resident of village-Mulmula Akaltara, District Janjgir-Champa, and an employee working under the Electrical Department of the Railway Coaching Depot who has suffered 70% burns after coming in contact with live OHE wires. He is presently battling for his life in Apollo Hospital. Meanwhile, his poor family continues to appeal to Railway authorities for compensation and financial aid for his treatment.

On Tuesday, his relatives approached the DRM office seeking assistance and compensation, but officials reportedly told them that no such provision exists and that all expenses must be borne by the contractor concerned. Later, when the family approached the coaching complex, they received the same response. It was further stated that the Railway

Administration has shifted the entire responsibility of treatment of the victim following his electrocution and severe burns, onto the proprietor of Kumar Engineering, Bhilai, who has been arrayed as respondent No. 6 in the present PIL.

Heard Mr. Ramakant Mishra, learned Deputy Solicitor General (through Video Conferencing) assisted by Mr. Bhupendra Pandey as well as Ms. Shweta Rai, learned counsel for the respondents No.1 to 5/Union of India.

A copy of the present PIL has already been served upon the learned Deputy Solicitor General, who has appeared before this Court through video conferencing and has prayed for some time to seek necessary instructions in the matter.

Such a plea, in the considered view of this Court, reflects a lack of seriousness on the part of the respondent-Railways, particularly when the person concerned is presently admitted in hospital and

struggling for his life.

In these circumstances, we deem it appropriate to direct the General Manager, as well as the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), South East Central Railway, Bilaspur, to appear before this Court today itself at 12:30 p.m. through Video Conferencing.

Mr. Mishra, learned Deputy Solicitor General appearing for the respondents No. 1 to 5, is directed to communicate this order to the authorities concerned, forthwith and this matter be taken up at 12:30 p.m. again.

**Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge**

**Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice**

Later on at 12:30 p.m

In compliance of the above order, Mr. Rajmal Khoiwal, DRM and Mr. Tarun Prakash, General Manager, SECR, Bilaspur, have appeared through

Video Conferencing.

A specific query was made as to whether the Railways have taken the responsibility of treatment of the victim, it has been stated by Mr. Tarun Prakash, General Manager, that the said person who got electrocuted, is in fact not the employee of Railways but is the employee of respondent No. 6, who is a contractor of the Railways. He further submits that the victim who sustained injuries, had unauthorisedly climbed the coach and as such, got electrocuted for which the Railway is not responsible.

Mr. Prakash further submits that there has been a meeting of the Railway authorities with that of the respondent No. 6/contractor and the family members of the victim and they are working out as to how the victim could be given financial aid.

At this stage, the primary concern of this Court is to provide all the necessary medical assistance to the victim who is fighting for his life in the Hospital

and the financial burden should not come in the way of getting the best possible treatment for him and as such, we deem it appropriate to direct the respondent No. 2/General Manager, SECR, Bilaspur to file his personal affidavit within a period of three days, with respect to the issue involved in this public interest litigation petition and to inform this Court as to what sort of financial assistance the Railway or the respondent No. 6 proposes to provide or has been provided to the victim and also to clarify as to who was responsible for such an act of negligence where a person comes into contact with live wire causing severe injuries and if the fault was on the part of the contractor/respondent No. 6, then what action has been taken by the Railways against the said contractor.

Let this matter be listed again on **02.09.2025**.

The respondent No. 2/General Manager, SECR, Bilaspur, is further directed to communicate this order to the respondent No. 6, informing him that

on the next date of hearing, he shall also remain present either in person or through his counsel and put forth his say before this Court.

The presence of respondents No. 2 and 3 is hereby dispensed with, unless otherwise directed by this Court.

**Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge**

**Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice**