



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

**WP(C) No.20155 of 2026**

***Pratima Pradhan***

.....

***Petitioner***

Represented by Adv. -  
Soma Patnaik

S. Pal

*-versus-*

***1) State Of Odisha***

.....

***Opposite Parties***

2) Vice Chancellor, Utkal University,  
Vani Vihar  
3) Registrar, Utkal University, Vani  
Vihar

Represented by Adv. –

Mr. S. Behera, AGA

**CORAM:**

**MR. JUSTICE ADITYA KUMAR MOHAPATRA**

**ORDER**

**06.07.2026**

**Order No.**

01. 1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual /Physical Mode).
2. Heard learned counsel for the Petitioner as well as learned Additional Govt. Advocate for the State-Opposite Parties. Perused the writ application as well as the documents annexed thereto.
3. The Petitioner has filed the present writ application with the following prayer:

*“Under these circumstances, the petitioner most humbly pray that this Hon’ble Court may be graciously pleased to issue a Rule Nisi calling upon the opposite parties to show cause as to why:*

*i) The action of the opposite parties in not appointing the petitioner under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme shall not be declared as illegal,*



*arbitrary- and contrary to law.*

*If the opposite parties fail to show cause or show insufficient cause the Rule Nisi be made absolute.*

*And further be pleased to pass any other appropriate writ/writs, order/orders, direction/directions as this Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper for ends of justice,”*

4. Learned counsel for the Petitioner at the outset contended that the father of the present Petitioner was working in the hostel of Utkal University, however they were engaged on temporary basis as a Gardner. Accordingly, the father of the Petitioner along with other similarly situated persons approached this Court by filing OJC No.4411 of 1997, which was disposed of by this Court directing the Utkal University to formulate a scheme for regularization of service of non-mess employees attached to the hostel. Such judgment of this Court was confirmed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in SLP No.5850 of 1999 vide order dated 19.11.1999. While this was the position, the Government of Odisha created posts for the non-mess category hostel employees and intimated the University for regularization of the service of the Petitioner and similarly situated of other persons vide letter dated 27.11.2004. Finally, the service of the Petitioner's father was regularized by the University with retrospective effect from 27.11.2004 by virtue of the order dated 16.11.2015.

5. Learned counsel for the Petitioner further submitted that while continuing in regular service in the hostel of the Utkal University as a Gardner, the father of the Petitioner died in harness on 16.04.2016 leaving behind his legal heirs including the present Petitioner in financial distress. Soon, the brother of the



Petitioner passed away on 12.11.2022, having the Petitioner's family in acute financial distress. Accordingly, the present Petitioner, who happens to be the daughter of the Government employee, submitted an application on 02.02.2026 for appointment on compassionate ground. The mother of the present Petitioner submitted her unwillingness to seek appointment under the Scheme to the Government. Being aggrieved by the inaction of the Opposite Parties in considering the application of the Petitioner for appointment on compassionate ground, the Petitioner has approached this Court by filing the present writ application.

6. Learned counsel for the State on the other hand contended that he has no specific instruction in the matter. He further contended that the Petitioner, who happens to be the daughter of the deceased Government employee, has submitted her application on 02.02.2026. He further contended that on perusal of the writ application it appears that the Petitioner has not approached the Opposite Parties for redressal of her grievance before approaching this Court. He further contended that in the event this Court directs the Opposite Parties to consider the case of the Petitioner in accordance with law and the applicable rules, within the stipulated period of time, he will have no objection to the same.

7. Considering the submissions made by learned counsels appearing for the Parties, keeping in view the nature of the prayer made in the present writ application, this Court deems it proper to dispose of the present writ application at the stage of admission by granting liberty to the Petitioner to approach the Registrar, Utkal



University, Opposite Party No.3 by filing a detailed representation, taking therein all the grounds along with all supporting documents. In the event any such representation is filed, the Opposite Party No. 3 shall do well to consider the grievance of the Petitioner strictly in accordance with law and applying the applicable rules and the notification of the Government and take a final decision in the matter within a period of three months from the date of communication of a copy of today's order. Any decision taken by the Opposite Party No.3 shall be communicated to the Petitioner within ten days thereafter.

8. With the aforesaid observation/ direction, the writ application stands disposed of.

Issue urgent certified copy of this order as per Rules.

**( A.K. Mohapatra )**  
**Judge**

Sisir