IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(Cr.) No. 663 of 2025

Manoj Singh, aged about 62 years, S/o Late Surendra Nath Singh, R/o M – 23, Argora Housing Colony, P.O., P.S. Argora & District - Ranchi **… … Petitioner**

Versus

1. State of Jharkhand
2. The Secretary, Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand officiating at Project Bhawan, P.O., P.S. Dhurwa & Dist- Ranchi.
3. The Principal Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department officiating at Project Bhawan, P.O., P.S. Dhurwa & Dist- Ranchi.
4. The Home Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, officiating at Jharkhand Police Headquarters, P.O., P.S. Dhurwa & Dist- Ranchi.
5. The Director General of Police, Jharkhand officiating at Jharkhand Police Headquarters, P.O., P.S. Dhurwa & Dist- Ranchi.
6. The Director General cum Chief of Police, Anti-Coruption Bureau having its office at F/49, Bharat Audrey House, Kanke Road, P.O. & P.S. Morabadi, Dist- Ranchi.
7. The Central Bureau of Investigation, through the Superintendent of Police, P.O.,P.S and District- Ranchi.
8. The Officer- In Charge, Anti-Coruption Bureau having its office at F/49, Bharat Audrey House, Kanke Road, P.O. & P.S. Morabadi, Dist- Ranchi.
9. The Officer- In Charge, Argora Police Station, P.O.,P.S Argora & Dist- Ranchi. **… … Respondents**

CORAM :HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANUBHA RAWAT CHOUDHARY

For the Petitioner : Mr. Ajit Kumar, Sr. Advocate
: Mr. Akash Ajit Kumar, Advocate
: Mr. Hritik Verma, Advocate
: Mr. Shovit Raj, Advocate
For the CBI : Mr. Deepak Kr. Bharti, Advocate

13/**04.11.2026** Heard the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner and the CBI.

2. Nobody appears on behalf of the State.

3. This writ petition has been filed for the following reliefs:

"a) For directing the Respondents, in the interest of justice, fairness and transparency, to immediately handover the investigation arising out of Argora P.S. Case No. 228/2024 dated 06.09.2024, lodged against Shri Saryu Roy, Ex-Cabinet Minister, Department of Food, Public Distribution and

Consumer Affairs, for offences punishable under Sections 403, 406, 408, 409, 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and Sections 7, 11, 12 and 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, to an independent investigating agency such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), ACB, Vigilance any other agency as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper, as after the registration of FIR in a midway the investigation has been stalled by the respondents and the file is still pending reason best known to them and investigation has not been concluded.

b) To show cause upon the respondent no. 4 that under what circumstances they are making delay in transferring the investigation to independent agency inspite of the fact that the FIR registered for the alleged offence is found to be true against the accused persons as petitioner has provided all the evidences which prima facie shows that the entire publication of Aahar has been done with the intention to embezzle the government money by the named accused persons.

c) For directing the Respondent especially respondent no. 4 to forthwith produce before this Hon'ble Court the entire records, file notings, reports, and decisions taken, if any, with respect to the procedure or steps taken to further proceed with the investigation against the accused person namely Saryu Roy, Ex Cabinet Minister of Department Minister of Department of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs who abused his position and through work of printing, publishing and thereafter, distribution of food bulletin namely "Aahar" every month obtained undue advantage of Rs. 3,38,26,473/- from the period October 2017 to March 2019 by dishonestly performing public duties and influencing other public servants to dishonestly and fraudulently misappropriate property entrusted and controlled by public servant as well as in criminal conspiracy of illegally appointing his confidants to cover up the trail of corruption done under relevant offence u/s 403, 406, 408, 409, 420 and 120 B IPC and section 7,11,12 and 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act for which the petitioner lodged FIR Argora P.S Case No. 228/2024 dated 06.09.2024.

d) To call for files/records/documents pertaining to the investigation, if any done by the respondent agency on the basis of FIR/Written Report made by the petitioner and if the respondents have not started the investigation further show cause them as to why they have chosen to not to take any action in the matter so far and why the investigation may not be handed over to any independent agency as this Hon'ble Court may find fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case.

e) Directing the Respondents to file a detailed affidavit indicating the present status of the said matter, the reasons for delay in processing the file to transfer of investigation to independent agency like ACB or Vigilance or CBI in connection with Argora P.S Case No.228/2024 dated 06.09.2024, now pending in the court of learned J.M. Ranchi.

And/or

For issuance of any other writ(s), order(s) or direction(s) which Your Lordship may deem fit and proper in the fact and circumstances of the case."

4. Learned counsel for the CBI has pointed out that there is a technical error in this writ petition, inasmuch as the person against whom the F.I.R. was instituted by the petitioner has not been made a party and in the main writ petition and a prayer has been made to hand over the investigation arising out of Argora P.S. Case No.228 of 2024 dated 06.09.2024 lodged against Sri Saryu Roy, Ex- Cabinet Minister, Department of Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, to the CBI.

5. To this, the learned Senior counsel for the petitioner submits that a counter affidavit dated 27.11.2025 as well as a supplementary counter affidavit dated 21.11.2025 has been filed in the present case.

Paragraph 18 of the counter affidavit is quoted as under:

"18. That it during the course of investigation and supervision of this case, this case has been found to be true under section 403/406/ 408/409/420/120 (B) of the Indian Penal Code against the named accused persons i.e. (i) Sri Saryu Rai, the then Cabinet Minister, Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi; (ii) Private Secretary of Sri Saryu Rai namely Anand Kumar; (iii) Sunil Shanakr; (iv) Owner of Baba Computers namely Ritesh Gupta; (iv) Managing Director of JPPL. Since, provision contained in section 7, 11, 12 and 13 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act require prior permission, as such, it has been found appropriate to proceed further upon it after getting required approval from the level of the appropriate authority. The case is under investigation."

paragraphs 6 & 7 of the supplementary counter affidavit is quoted as under: -

6. That it is most humbly and respectfully submitted that further investigation of the cases related to PC Act 1988, conducted by the

ACB, Jharkhand, after taking over the case on receipt of permission granted by competent authority (Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department, Government of Jharkhand).

7. That it is most humbly and respectfully submitted that on the basis of Police Headquarters office letter No.1385/X dtd.04.06.2025 a letter has been sent to Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department, Government of Jharkhand for seeking necessary direction for taking over Argora (Ranchi) P.S. case No.228/2024 dtd.06.09.2024 for further investigation."

6. By referring to the aforesaid paragraphs of counter affidavit and supplementary counter affidavit , the learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the matter is now pending before the Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, for seeking necessary directions for taking over Argora (Ranchi) P.S. Case No.228/2024 dated 06.09.2024.

7. The learned counsel submits that once the matter is pending before the Cabinet Secretariat, as reflected from the supplementary counter affidavit filed as back as on 20.11.2025, the matter cannot remain pending for indefinite period. Therefore, an appropriate direction be issued in this case and that would suffice so far as the present writ petition is concerned.

8. The learned counsel for the State is absent. However, the counter affidavit and supplementary counter affidavit filed by the State have been placed on record and perused. The relief as prayed for by the petitioner at this stage is limited to what has been argued as above.

9. The person in connection with whom, the writ petition has been filed, has not been made party in the writ petition. However, in view of the supplementary counter affidavit, the matter is said to have been sent to the Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department, Government of Jharkhand for seeking necessary directions for taking over Argora (Ranchi) P.S. Case No.228 of 2024 dated 06.09.2024 as the matter also relates to Prevention of Corruption Act and further investigation is required to be conducted by the ACB, Jharkhand.

10. It is suffice to observe that the matter cannot remain pending before the Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand for an indefinite period of time. If an appropriate decision has not yet been taken by the aforesaid authority so far , it is expected that the said authority will take an appropriate decision expeditiously.

11. This writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

12. I.A. No.1488 of 2026 does not survive any more, hence, it is closed.

13. Pending interlocutory application, if any, stands closed.

(Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)

Date of Order: 04.11.2026
Date of uploading:04.11.2026
Saurav/-