TELANGANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
1st & 2nd Floor, 'Nyaya Seva Sadan' Near Naga Devata Temple,
Gate No.2, High Court Premises, Hyderabad - 500 066
E-Mail: telenganaslsa@gmail.com
Website:www.tslsa.telangana.gov.in

CH.PANCHAKSHARI
Member Secretary
(District & Sessions Judge)

Roc. No. 2381 /TSLSA/2025, Date:12-05-2025

Sir/Madam,

Sub:- REPORTABLE - Re-Compensation Amounts Deposited with Motor Accident Claims Tribunals and Labour Courts - Communicated - Reg.

Ref: Suo Motu Writ Petition © No.7 of 2024.

***

Adverting to the captioned subject and reference , I am to state that the Assistant Registrar (PIL-Writ), Supreme Court of India, communicated copy of order in Suo Motu Writ Petition © No. 7 of 2024 and requested to circulate the same to all DLSAs and HCLSC.

Therefore, I am herewith forwarding the said order for onward circulation to all concerned.

DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY ★ YADADRI-BHUVANAGIRI ★
RECEIVED
422/2026
DATED
12.05.2025

Yours faithfully,

12/5/25

MEMBER SECRETARY

To
1. The Chairpersons, District Legal Services Authorities in the State of Telangana.
2. The Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Hyderabad.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY,
YADADRI-BHUVANAGIRI

Endt.Dis.No. 450 /DLSA/2025 Dt:12.05.2025

" Communicated "

CHAIRMAN

To:
1. Prl.District & Sessions Judge, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri
2. I Addl.District and Sessions Judge, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri.

Through: Speed Post

D.NO. 26927/2024/SC/PIL (W)

All Communications should be addressed to the Registrar, Supreme Court by designation, NOT by name

SUPREME COURT
INDIA
NEW DELHI

Dated : 24.04.2025

From : Assistant Registrar (PIL-Writ)

To :

1. The Member Secretary,
Andhra Pradesh State Legal Services Authority
H.No 2-273/54-A, B.S.R Commercial Complex,
Malkapuram village, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Road,
Opposite to Traffic Police Station,
Thulluru Mandal, Guntur District - 522 238.

2. The Member Secretary,
Arunachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,
Tower-1 Apartment, Zoo Road,
Chimpu, Itanagar-791113

3. The Member Secretary
Assam State Legal Services Authority,
Gauhati High Court, Old Block, 1st Fllor,
Guwahati-781001.

4. The Member Secretary,
Bihar State Legal Services Authority,
Opposite Patna Museum, Buddha Marg
PATNA – 800 001.

5. The Member Secretary,
Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority,
Old High Court Building,
Bilaspur – 495001
Chhattisgarh.

6. The Member Secretary
Goa State Legal Services Authority
High Court of Bombay at Goa,
Penha-de-franca, Porvorim-Goa

7. The Member Secretary
Gujarat State Legal Services Authority,
3rd Floor, Near Gujarat High Court Post Office,
Gujarat High Court Complex,
Sola, Ahmedabad – 380 060

8. The Member Secretary,
Haryana State Legal Services Authority,
Institutional Plot No.9, Sector-14
Panchkula (Haryana)-134109

9. The Member Secretary,
Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,
Block No.22, SDA Complex, Kasumpti,
SHIMLA – 171 009.

TELANGANA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
2381
02 MAY 2025
RECEIVED
High Court Premises, Hyderabad.

10. The Member Secretary
J&K State Legal Services Authority,
1. Winter Address: (November to April)
JDA Complex, Janipur, Jammu-180007
2. Summer Address: (May to October)
Old Secretariat, Srinagar-190001.

11. The Member Secretary,
Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority,
"NYAYA SADAN"
Near AG Office,
Doranda, Ranchi – 834 002.

12. The Member Secretary,
Karnataka State Legal Services Authority
Nyaya Degula, 1st Floor, H.Siddaiah Road, Bangalore – 560 027

13. The Member Secretary,
Kerala State Legal Services Authority,
Niyama Sahaya Bhavan, High Court Compound, Ernakulum,
KOCHI – 682 031.

14. The Member Secretary,
Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,
C-2, South Civil Lines, Pachpedi,
JABALPUR 482001.
Shri Manoj Kumar Singh
Additional Secretary M: 9424930700

15. The Member Secretary,
Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority,
105, High Court, PWD Building, Fort,
MUMBAI – 400 032.

16. The Member Secretary,
Manipur State Legal Services Authority,
ADR Centre, Lamphel Court Complex,
Lamphelpat-795 004
Imphal West District, Manipur.

17. The Member Secretary,
Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority,
R.No.120, MATI Building, Additional Secretariat,
SHILLONG – 793 001

18. The Member Secretary,
Mizoram State Legal Services Authority,
Behind New District Court Building,
High Court Complex,
MINECO, Aizawl, Mizoram - 796001.

19. The Member Secretary,
Nagaland State Legal Services Authority,
KDPA Building, Top Floor,
D.C. Office Compound, KOHIMA – 797001.

20. The Member Secretary,
Odisha State Legal Services Authority,
AAIN Seva Bhawan, Sector-1, CDA,
Cuttack-753014, Odisha.

21. The Member Secretary,
Punjab State Legal Services Authority,
Site No.126,Opposite GMADA Community Centre,
Sector 69, S.A.S.Nagar, Mohali

22. The Member Secretary,
Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority,
Rajasthan High Court Building,
JAIPUR – 302 005

23. The Member Secretary,
Sikkim State Legal Services Authority,
Development Area,
Gangtok, East Sikkim-737101

24. The Member Secretary
Telangana State Legal Services Authority
1st & 2nd Floor, Nyaya Seva Sadan,
Near Nagamata Temple, Gate No.2, High Court Premises,
Hyderabad – 500 066.

25. The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority,
North Fort Road, High Court Campus
CHENNAI – 600 104.

26. The Member Secretary,
Tripura State Legal Services Authority,
Old District & Sessions Judge Court,
Near Fire Brigade Chowmuhani,
Agartala, Tripura (W) – 799001.

27. The Member Secretary,
Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority,
4/7, Gomti Nagar Extension Lucknow- 226010

28. The Member Secretary,
Uttarakhand State Legal Services Authority,
ADR Center, High Court Campus,
Nainital-263002.

29. The Member Secretary,
West Bengal State Legal Services Authority,
City Civil Court Building (1st Floor),
2 & 3, Kiron Sankar Roy Road,
KOLKATA – 700 001.

30. The Member Secretary,
State Legal Services Authority,
Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Secretariat, A&N Administration,
PORT BLAIR – 744 101.

31. The Member Secretary,
UT Chandigarh State Legal Services Authority,
Union Territory of Chandigarh,
Additional Deluxe Building,
Ground Floor, Sector 9-D,
CHANDIGARH – 160009

32. The Member Secretary
UT Dadra & Nagar Haveli Legal Services Authority,
District & Sessions Court,
Tokarkhada, Silvassa,
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (U.T.) Pin – 396 230

33. The Member Secretary
Daman & Diu Legal Services Authority,
District & Sessions Court,
Fort Area, Moti Daman
Daman 396220

34. The Member Secretary,
Delhi State Legal Services Authority,
Central Office, 3rd Floor, Rouse Avenue District Court Complex,
Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg,
New Delhi-110002

35. The Member Secretary,
Lakshadweep State Legal Services Authority,
District & Sessions Judge, Lakshadweep,
KAVARATTI ISLANDS – 682 555.

36. The Member Secretary
U.T. of Puducherry Legal Services Authority,
No.3, Lal Bahadur Shastri Street,
Puducherry-605 001.

37. The Member Secretary
UT of Ladakh Legal Services Authority
Dambuchan, Akling, Leh, Ladakh-194101

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 07 OF 2024

IN RE: COMPENSATION AMOUNTS DEPOSITED WITH MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNALS AND LABOUR COURTS

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for your information, compliance and necessary action a certified copy of the Reportable Signed Order dated 22.04.2025, passed by this Hon'ble Court in the matter above-mentioned.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

24/4/25

Assistant Registrar

Encl. As above

Certified to be true Copy
Assistant Registrar (Judl.)
Supreme Court of India

REPORTABLE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION (C) NO. 7 OF 2024 25059262

IN RE: COMPENSATION AMOUNTS DEPOSITED WITH MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNALS AND LABOUR COURTS

ORDER

ABHAY S. OKA, J.

1) An email was received by this Court from Shri B. B. Pathak, a retired District Judge from Gujarat. In the e-mail dated 25th May 2024, Shri Pathak pointed out that large amounts payable by way of compensation under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (for short, 'the 1988 Act') and the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (for short, 'the 1923 Act') are lying deposited with the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (for short, 'the MAC Tribunals') and Labour Courts. Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India passed an administrative order on the basis of information received

by e-mail from Shri B. B. Pathak for registration of the present Suo Motu Writ Petition.

2) On 8th July 2024, this Court issued notices to the State of Gujarat as well as the Registrar General of Gujarat High Court, directing them to produce before this Court the data of compensation amounts lying deposited with the MAC Tribunals as well as before the Commissioners under the 1923 Act. By the order dated 26th July 2024, this Court requested Ms. Meenakshi Arora, the learned senior counsel appearing for the High Court of Gujarat, to assist the Court as amicus curiae. On the basis of a preliminary note containing recommendations submitted by the learned senior counsel appointed as amicus curiae, notices were issued to the Registrar Generals of the High Courts at Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras along with copies of earlier orders passed by this Court. Thereafter, time was granted to the High Courts to file affidavits/responses.

3) Ms. Vishakha, advocate-on-record representing the High Court of Gujarat, has filed a compilation of responses received from various High Courts along with suggestions of the learned senior counsel appointed as amicus curiae. To understand the magnitude of the problem, in paragraph 5 on page 2 of the compilation submitted by Ms. Vishakha, the figures of unclaimed amounts have been set out. Paragraph 5 reads thus:

> "At the very outset, the details pertaining to the unclaimed amounts as provided in the affidavits received are as under:

S.No.	High Court	Unclaimed Amount in MACT	Unclaimed Amount in Labour Courts
1.	Gujarat	Rs.2,82,00,37,779.18	Rs.6,61,39,777.19
2.	Allahabad	Rs.239 Crores approx	Rs.92,39,02,649.10
3.	Calcutta	Rs.2,53,37,676/-	Not available
4.	Bombay	Rs.4,59,10,66,846/-	
5.	Goa	Rs.3,61,60,495/-	

4) In the affidavits, the respective High Courts have given their own suggestions. Different High Courts have

adopted different methods to deal with the issue. Some of the High Courts appointed committees to submit recommendations. The committee appointed by the High Court of Judicature at Bombay has given details of the procedure followed in such cases in different countries. The report of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay refers to paragraph 742 of the Civil Manual applicable to the Courts in Maharashtra, which incorporates the requirement of deposit of unclaimed amounts into the treasury of the State Government. We have also carefully perused the recommendations of the learned senior counsel appointed as amicus curiae. She has summarised the best practices followed by various High Courts and has incorporated the same in her recommendations.

5) The issue arising in this *suo motu* petition is of great concern. The amounts represent the compensation granted to claimants in the claims filed under the 1988 and 1923 Acts. Though the claimants are held entitled to these amounts, they have not withdrawn the same. The

fact that so many successful claimants have been deprived of compensation is very disturbing. It is necessary to find a solution.

6) There is a provision under Section 166 of the 1988 Act for making an application for compensation to the MAC Tribunal established under the said enactment. Sub-Section (1) of Section 166 reads thus:

> "166. Application for compensation.—(1) An application for compensation arising out of an accident of the nature specified in sub-section (1) of Section 165 may be made—
>
> (*a*) by the person who has sustained the injury; or
>
> (*b*) by the owner of the property; or
>
> (*c*) where death has resulted from the accident, by all or any of the legal representatives of the deceased; or
>
> (*d*) by any agent duly authorised by the person injured or all or any of the legal representatives of the deceased, as the case may be:
>
> Provided that where all the legal representatives of the deceased have not joined in any such application for compensation, the application shall be made on behalf of or for the benefit of all the legal

representatives of the deceased and the legal representatives who have not so joined, shall be impleaded as respondents to the application:

Provided further that where a person accepts compensation under Section 164 in accordance with the procedure provided under Section 149, his claim petition before the Claims Tribunal shall lapse."

6.1 Under Section 176, rule making powers has been conferred on the State Governments to make rules providing for the form of application for claims for compensation and the particulars it may contain. Section 176 reads thus:

"176. Power of State Government to make rules.—A State Government may make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of Sections 165 to 174, and in particular, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely—

(*a*) the form of application for claims for compensation and the particulars it may contain, and the fees, if any, to be paid in respect of such applications;

(*b*) the procedure to be followed by a Claims Tribunal in holding an inquiry under this Chapter;

(*c*) the powers vested in a Civil Court which may be exercised by a Claims Tribunal;

(*d*) the form and the manner in which and the fees (if any) on payment of which an appeal may be preferred against an award of a Claims Tribunal; and

(*e*) any other matter which is to be, or may be prescribed."

7) It is not clear how many States have exercised the rule making power under clause (a) of Section 176 for prescribing the form of the application under Section 166(1). Applications for compensation can be made by the persons who have sustained injuries or by the owners of the damaged property and in case of fatal accidents, by all or any of the legal representatives of the deceased. Even an agent duly authorised by the person injured or the legal representatives of the deceased can also file a claim petition.

8) In absence of the exercise of the rule making power under Section 176 of the 1988 Act by the State Governments, the respective High Courts can either frame rules of procedure or issue practice directions for ensuring

that material details are disclosed while filing claim applications under Section 166(1) of the 1988 Act.

9) Till the rules are not framed, the High Courts shall either issue practice directions or formulate rules of procedure by incorporating the following provisions:

a) While filing claim petitions under the 1988 Act, following particulars shall be incorporated:

(i) Names and addresses (local and permanent) of the injured persons or the owners of the damaged property, as the case may be, their Aadhar and PAN details and email-id, if any; and

(ii) Names and addresses (local and permanent) of all the legal representatives of the deceased victim of the accident who are claiming compensation, their Aadhar and PAN details and email-id, if any;

(b) If the aforesaid details are not furnished, the registration of the application should not be

refused on that ground, but MAC Tribunals at the time of issuing notice may direct the applicant(s) to furnish the information and make the issue of the notice subject to making compliance;

(c) While passing an interim or final order of grant of compensation, the MAC Tribunals shall call upon the person or persons held entitled to receive compensation, to produce their bank account details along with either a certificate of the banker giving all details of the bank account of the person or persons entitled to receive the compensation including IFS Code, or a copy of a cancelled cheque of the bank account. The Tribunal shall call upon the claimants to produce the documents within a specified reasonable time;

(d) A further direction shall be issued to the persons entitled to receive compensation to keep on updating information regarding the bank accounts, email id, in case there is any change;

(e) In the event a consent award or consent order is made, the MAC Tribunals may direct the deposit of the compensation amount ordered to be released to the claimants directly to the bank accounts of the persons held entitled to receive compensation. However, the consent terms must contain all relevant account details of the persons entitled to compensation in accordance with clause (c) above. The account details can also be incorporated in the order passed for the disbursement of the amount on the basis of a compromise between the parties. In case of compromise before the Lok Adalats, the MAC Tribunal, on the basis of the settlement, shall pass a consequential order in the above terms;

(f) It shall be the duty of the learned Judges presiding over the MAC Tribunal to verify from the certificate issued by the banker and ascertain whether the

account is of the persons held entitled to receive compensation;

(g) The MAC Tribunals, while passing orders of withdrawal/disbursement, shall, in the ordinary course, pass an order of transfer of the requisite amounts directly to the bank account of the person/s entitled to receive compensation as per the account details furnished. If there is a long gap between the date of furnishing the account details and the date of filing application for withdrawal of the amount, the Tribunal will be well advised to get fresh account details of the claimants;

(h) Whenever the MAC Tribunal passes an order of deposit of compensation amount with the Tribunal, there shall be a direction issued to invest the amounts to be deposited in fixed deposit with any nationalised bank and the fixed deposit shall be with the standing instructions to the bank

to renew the same after periodical intervals till further orders are passed by the Tribunal;

(i) Similarly, practice directions/rules be framed in respect of adjudication made under the 1923 Act. The above directions issued while passing awards in claims under the 1988 Act shall be applied in case of the claims for compensation under the 1923 Act;

(j) The Central Project Co-ordinator of e-court project or Registrar (Computer/IT) of the High Courts, as the case may be, with the help of the State Government, shall create a dashboard on which the information regarding the amounts lying deposited in connection with the compensation granted under 1988 or 1923 Acts shall be regularly uploaded with all details. It will help all concerned to implement the directions issued under this order;

(k) All the High Courts shall issue administrative directions to the MAC Tribunals and Commissioners under the 1923 Act to initiate a massive drive to ascertain the whereabouts of the persons who have been held to be entitled to receive compensation, but have not taken the same. This shall be done by taking the assistance of the District and Taluka Legal Services Authorities and para-legal volunteers;

(l) The State Governments shall provide assistance to the Legal Services Authorities of the local police officers/revenue officers of the district and taluka to trace the claimants who are held entitled to receive compensation;

(m) The State Legal Services Authorities shall monitor compliance with the directions issued in terms of clauses (k) and (l) above and report compliance within a period of four months from today.

10) These directions shall continue to bind the MAC Tribunals and the Commissioners under the 1923 Act till rule-making power is properly exercised by the Government. The Registry shall forward copies of this order to the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts as well as the Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authorities of all the States. We direct the High Courts to take up implementation of the aforesaid directions at the earliest and submit compliance reports to this Court on or before 30th July 2025, so that further directions, if necessary, can be issued. The Registrar Generals, in their report, shall set out the details of the amounts still lying without disbursement. The Registry shall forward soft copies of the reports to Ms. Vishakha, AOR.

11) We make it clear that if the Rules framed by the State Government or practice directions already issued are consistent with the above directions, the Rules or the practice directions, as the case may be, shall be followed notwithstanding this order.

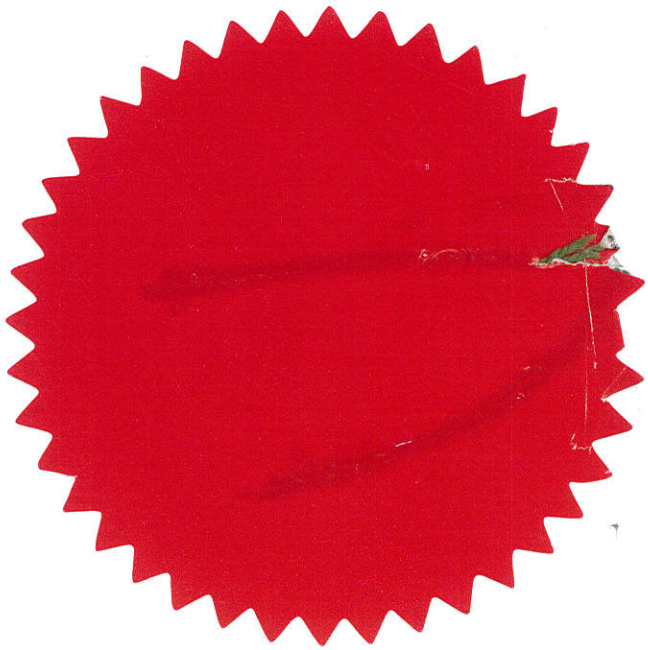
12) We make it clear that all the High Courts are free to take measures in addition to what is directed under this order to ensure that the pending amounts reach the claimants.

13) List for reporting compliance on 18th August 2025.

.....J.
(Abhay S. Oka)

.....J.
(Ujjal Bhuyan)

New Delhi;
April 22, 2025.



SEALED IN MY PRESENCE