

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA**  
**Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.3121 of 2026**

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Sanjay Kumar

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

The State of Bihar & Ors.

... .. Respondent/s

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**Appearance :**

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Abhay Kumar Mishra, Adv.  
Mr. Sonu Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Sarfraz Ahmad, Adv.  
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Vikash Kumar, AC to AG

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**CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**and**  
**HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HARISH KUMAR**  
**ORAL ORDER**

**(Per: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE)**

6     14-05-2026                     In pursuance of the order dated 12.05.2026, Mr. Saurabh Suman Yadav, Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, Patna, has appeared through virtual mode. Likewise, the District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur, along with the District Agriculture Officer, Muzaffarpur, and the Block Development Officer, Sahebganj, Muzaffarpur have also joined the proceedings through virtual mode.

2. When the matter was taken up on the last date, i.e., 12.05.2026, this Court was informed by the District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur, that vide Letter No. 3413 dated 05.12.2025, a report had been submitted before the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, Patna, regarding the total area of land, crops damaged and the assessed provisional compensation amount. It



was further stated that action was expected to be taken at the level of the Agriculture Department with regard to opening of the portal; however, till date, no action has been taken by the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, Patna, on the ground that the Rabi season had already commenced in the meantime.

Accordingly, by order dated 12.05.2026, this Court ordered the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, Patna, to appear through virtual mode and specifically directed him to furnish, in writing, the ways and means by which the farmers who have sustained crop loss may conveniently receive the compensation amount without any hindrance.

3. The Director, Agriculture, Bihar, has submitted a report dated 13.05.2026 regarding the ways and means for disbursement of compensation, wherein it has been stated as follows:

***“WAYS AND MEANS FOR  
DISBURSEMENT OF COMPENSATION***

*(In compliance with the order dated  
12.05.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in CWJC No.  
3121 of 2026)*

***1. Preliminary Submission***

*It is respectfully submitted that the  
disbursement of agricultural input subsidy for crop loss  
is governed by a structured and time-bound framework  
involving application, verification, approval, and  
Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to eligible beneficiaries.*



*The present mechanism is being outlined in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Court to ensure that **genuine and eligible cases, if any, are addressed without procedural impediment, subject to applicable norms.***

## **2. Existing Position**

*a. The crop damage assessment for Kharif 2025 in District Muzaffarpur was duly completed and forwarded to the State Government vide Letter No. 3413 dated 05.12.2025.*

*b. The DBT-based application portal for the said scheme remained operational up to **02.12.2025**, within which eligible farmers were required to submit applications.*

*c. Compensation has already been disbursed to those farmers who:*

- applied within the prescribed time, and*
- were found eligible upon verification*

## **3. Present Issue**

*It is submitted that certain cases, if any, could not be processed on account of:*

- non-submission of applications within the prescribed timeline, or*
- procedural limitations inherent in the digital application framework*

## **4. Mechanism Now Being Adopted (Pursuant to Court Direction)**

*In compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Court, the State has initiated the following mechanism:*

### **(i) Constitution of Verification Committee**



*A three-member committee, constituted vide Office Order dated 13.05.2026 by the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, has been tasked with:*

- *field verification in affected panchayats*
- *identification of residual/unattended cases, if any*
- *submission of a report within a stipulated time*

***(ii) Field-Level Identification***

*The Committee shall:*

- *identify farmers who claim to have suffered crop loss*
- *verify such claims through field inspection and available records*

***(iii) Eligibility Determination***

*The Committee shall assess:*

- *extent of crop loss*
- *conformity with prescribed norms (including threshold criteria)*
- *whether such cases fall within the permissible framework of the scheme*

***(iv) Compilation of Report***

*A consolidated report shall be submitted to the State Government indicating:*

- *number of residual cases, if any*
- *nature of claims*
- *eligibility status*

***(v) Administrative Examination***

*Upon receipt of the report, the State Government shall examine:*

- *feasibility of extending benefit to such cases*



- *availability of financial provision*
- *permissibility under existing scheme guidelines or any enabling framework*

**(vi) Decision and Further Action**

*Based on the above examination, appropriate decision shall be taken:*

- *in accordance with law*
- *subject to applicable financial and administrative norms*

**5. Clarificatory Safeguards**

*It is respectfully submitted that:*

- *the scheme governing disbursement is inherently **time-bound in nature***
- *compensation is subject to **application, verification, and eligibility criteria***
- *no automatic or open-ended entitlement arises beyond the prescribed framework*

*However, in deference to the observations of this Hon'ble Court, the State is undertaking the above exercise to ensure that **genuine cases, if found eligible, are duly considered in accordance with law.***

**6. Timeline**

*It is submitted that:*

- *the Committee has been directed to submit its report within 15 days*
- *further action shall be taken expeditiously thereafter*

**7. Conclusion**

*The above mechanism ensures that:*

- *no genuine claimant is left unexamined*
- *procedural constraints are addressed*
- *administrative and financial discipline is*



*maintained  
while complying with the directions of this  
Hon'ble Court."*

4. After going through the report, we find that in Column No. 2, it has been stated that the DBT-based application portal under the scheme remained operational up to **02.12.2025**, within which period the eligible farmers were required to submit their applications. It has further been stated that compensation has already been disbursed to those farmers who had submitted their applications within the prescribed time and were found eligible upon verification.

5. Upon a query made by this Court, the Director, Agriculture, Bihar, stated that altogether 1,11,861 farmers have been compensated, who sustained crop damage, on the basis of their applications submitted through the portal. He further disclosed that a total compensation amount of Rs. 33,25,04,753/- (Rupees Thirty Three Crores Twenty Five Lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Only) has been disbursed amongst the aforesaid farmers.

We further queried the Director, Agriculture, Bihar, regarding the steps taken for creating awareness amongst the farmers for submission of applications through the portal and the assistance provided to them for filing such applications. In



response, he stated that awareness programmes were conducted at the village level through village-level workers and Kisan Salahkars. It was also stated that, for the purpose of creating awareness, a communique was published in local daily newspapers on 15.11.2025.

6. After perusing the report dated 13.05.2025, submitted before us today, we found that a three-member Committee has already been constituted by the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, vide Office Order dated 13.05.2026 and the said Committee has been directed to undertake field verification in the affected Panchayats, identify the residual/unattended cases, if any, and submit its report within a period of 15 days.

The Committee has further been directed, during the course of field verification, to identify those farmers who claim to have suffered crop losses and to verify their claims through field inspection and available records. Thereafter, the Committee is required to assess the extent of crop loss and prepare a consolidated report indicating, *inter alia*, the number of residual cases, nature of claims, eligibility status, and other relevant particulars.

It further appears from the report that upon receipt



of such report, the Government shall examine the feasibility of extending the benefit in such cases, keeping in view the availability of financial provisions, permissibility under the existing scheme guidelines and any enabling framework, and shall thereafter take an appropriate decision expeditiously in accordance with law, and subject to financial and administrative nexus.

7. Since it has been specifically mentioned in the report that compensation is subject to application, verification, and fulfilment of eligibility criteria, and an undertaking has also been given that the exercise shall be conducted in the light of the observations made by this Court to identify genuine cases, we expect that if such farmers are found eligible, necessary steps shall be taken expeditiously and strictly in accordance with law.

8. We further expect that proper awareness measures shall be undertaken by the District Administration so that all the left-out farmers may appear before the aforesaid three-member Committee for the purposes of necessary verification and consideration of the task assigned to the Committee by the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar. It is also expected that the Committee shall submit its report to the



Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar within the stipulated time after which consequential follow-up action may be taken thereafter expeditiously.

9. Since this Court has already been apprised that, in the meantime, the Rabi season has commenced, it is expected that the three-member Committee shall also take into consideration the earlier Letter No. 3413 dated 05.12.2025, submitted by the District Magistrate with regard to crop damage in the fields *vis-à-vis* the ownership details of the concerned farmers.

We invoked Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India in our order dated 02.05.2026 contending therein that denial of relief after assessed crop loss infringes the right of livelihood of affected farmers. It must be stated that, the farmer who feeds the entire nation cannot be left to fend for himself when natural disaster strikes his field. In light of this, we expect that the respondent authorities shall complete the exercise of disbursement of compensation to the destitute farmers expeditiously ensuring that no genuine and eligible claimant is left out on account of procedural impediments.

10. List this matter on 24.06.2026 at 11:00 A.M.

11. By the next date, a further affidavit shall be



filed by the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, indicating:  
(i) the number of residual/unattended cases identified by the three-member Committee; (ii) the extent of crop loss in each such case; and (iii) the disbursement of compensation, if any, made in favour of the eligible left-out farmers.

12. A copy of the said affidavit shall be furnished to the learned counsel for the petitioner well in advance.

13. The District Magistrate, Muzaffarpur, along with the District Agriculture Officer, Muzaffarpur, and the Block Development Officer, Sahebganj, Muzaffarpur, shall also join the proceedings with the Director, Agriculture Department, Bihar, on the next date through virtual mode.

14. Let a free copy of this order be handed over to the learned counsel for the State.

**(Sangam Kumar Sahoo, CJ)**

**(Harish Kumar, J)**

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