

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU**

CJ Court

Case : WP(C) PIL No. 12/2025

CM No. 7325/2025

CM No. 7326/2025

Jammu Kashmir Sharnarhi Action
Committee through its President, Gurdev
Singh

..... Appellant/Petitioner(s)

Through: Mr. Siddhant Gupta, Advocate

Vs

UT of J&K and another

..... Respondent(s)

Through: Ms. Monika Kohli, Sr.AAG

**Coram: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJNESH OSWAL, JUDGE**

ORDER

10.02.2026

Despite opportunity, the respondents have failed to submit response. Again an adjournment is prayed for.

Though, there is hardly any justification to defer the proceedings any further, but since Ms. Monika Kohli, learned Sr.AAG undertakes to ensure that the reply shall be filed three days prior to the adjourned date, the matter is adjourned to **23.03.2026**. However, it is made clear that in the event of default, appropriate orders shall follow.

At this stage, learned counsel for the petitioner has shared with us a copy of the communication dated February 04, 2026 issued by the Social Welfare Department (Civil Secretariat, J&K), vide which Pahari Ethnic Group (PEG) has been granted Scheduled Tribe status through The Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024 and S.O. 176 of 2024 on the basis of ethnicity and not geographical location across the entire UT of J&K.

The document is taken on record and marked 'X'.

Faced with this, learned Sr. AAG may also seek instructions in this regard and, if necessary, file a specific affidavit before the adjourned date.

**(RAJNESH OSWAL) (ARUN PALLI)
JUDGE CHIEF JUSTICE**

Jammu :
10.02.2026
Pawan Chopra/Secy