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No. L-11014/18/2025-L&M (FTS-125109)
Government of India
Ministry of Cooperation
Office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies

World Trade Centre, 9th Floor, Tower-E
Nauroji Nagar New Delhi-110029
Dated: March, 2026

ORDER

Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa at Cuttack vide Order dated 15.01.2026 in Writ-Petition (C) No.1041 of 2026 filed by Shri Kedarnath Patnaik vs Government of India & Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) in the High Court of Orissa, at Cuttack, disposed of the instant petition and directed Central Registrar - Respondent No. 2 that; *"In such premises, the writ petition is disposed of at the stage of admission with a direction to the Central Registrar, Office of CRCS, New Delhi (Opposite Party No.2) to consider the prayer of the Petitioner, in accordance with law, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order along with a copy of the writ petition."*

2) The Petitioner, Shri Kedarnath Patnaik, in his representation/application has submitted that he is a depositor in Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd. and Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., holding Membership Nos. 612778000990 and 12771506439 respectively.

3) Further, as per the Society data dump provided to Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) for the purpose of refund from the CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal, the aggregate deposit amount of all claim exceeds the then limit of Rs. 5 Lakhs (***now this limit enhanced to Rs. 10 lakhs***) for processing of applications on the Portal.

4) The Petitioner has filed his claim on 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal' vide application (CRN) No. 24050912298102 on 09.05.2024, however, it has been observed that the application could not be processed due to deficiencies as *"to process claims aggregating more than Rs. 5 lakhs, the depositor is required to upload additional documents pertaining to the years in which deposits were made such as (i) Income Tax Returns; (ii) Bank Statement showing withdrawal of funds and (iii) other documents to establish legitimacy of deposits"* which have already been informed to the Petitioner vide letter No. L-11014/45/2022-L&M dated 05.10.2024 (copy enclosed) through the Portal. The Petitioner was advised to re-submit application on the Re-submission Portal alongwith requisite documents after rectification of deficiencies and if necessary, and get in touch with the Societies concerned for repayment of deposits to him.

5) The cooperative societies registered under the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002 function as autonomous cooperative organizations and accountable to their members. The multi-State cooperative societies are required to function as per the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and rules framed there under read with approved Bye-laws of the society which includes the roles and powers of the members, Board, General Body of the society and CRCS.

As per the provisions of Section 49 of the MSCS Act, 2002, the business matters such as to admit members, to accept the deposits and investing & lending the same, falls under the powers and functions of Board of Society and the day-to-day management of the society staff matters including payment of salary to them, etc. fall under the powers and functions of the Chief Executive of the society as per the provisions of Section 52 of the MSCS Act, 2002.

6) In response to the Interlocutory Application No. 56308/2023 filed by the Ministry of Cooperation, in W.P. No. 191/2022 filed by Pinak Pani Mohanty & Ors. Vs UoI & Ors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India disposed the IA and passed Order dated 29.03.2023 with directions inter alia as under:

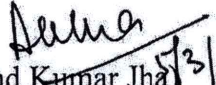
"(i) Out of the total amount of Rs. 24,979.67 Crores lying in the "Sahara-SEBI Refund Account, Rs. 5000 Crores be transferred to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies, who, in turn, shall disburse the same against the legitimate dues of the depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies, which shall be paid to the genuine depositors in the most transparent manner and on proper identification and on submitting proof of their deposits and proof of their claims and to be deposited in their respective bank accounts directly.

(ii) The disbursement shall be supervised and monitored by Justice R. Subhash Reddy. Former Judge of this Court with the able assistance of Shri Gaurav Agarwal, learned Advocate, who is appointed as Amicus Curiae to assist Justice R. Subhash Reddy as well as the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in disbursing the amount to the genuine depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies. The manner and modalities for making the payment is to be worked out by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in consultation with Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of this Court and Shri Gaurav Agarwal, learned Advocate.....".

7) In compliance of the above order, an Online Portal "CRCS-Sahara Refund portal" has been developed and launched on 18.07.2023 for submission of claims by the genuine depositors of four Multi-State Cooperative Societies of Sahara Group, namely; Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Lucknow, Saharavn Universal Multipurpose Society Ltd., Bhopal, Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Kolkata and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd., Hyderabad. The Portal can be accessed through Ministry of Cooperation website <https://cooperation.gov.in> and <https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in>. The genuine depositors of these Societies including the petitioners of this petition may login the portal and submit their refund claims by filing online application and upload requisite documents i.e., proof of their deposits and claims. Only claims filed through online portal will be entertained. **It is also pertinent to mention here that a re-submission Portal (<https://mocresubmit.cres.gov.in>) has also been launched for re-submission of the claim applications in case of any deficiency informed to the applicant through the CRCS-Sahara Refund portal.**

8) Therefore, the Petitioner may re-submit his claims for refund of deposits made in Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies on 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal', which will be processed as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). However, as there is no restriction for the above Societies to refund the deposits of the depositors, therefore, the CEO & Chairman of Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Kolkata, west Bengal are hereby directed to make payment alongwith interest for the deposits of the petitioner immediately.

9) Accordingly, in compliance of Hon'ble High Court's order dated 15.01.2026, the prayer/application of the petitioner is decided herewith.


(Anand Kumar Jha) 5/3/26

Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies

Distribution:

1. Shri Kedarnath Patnaik S/o Late Kailash Chandra Patnaik, At Plot No. 1E/36, Sector-13, CDA, Market Nagar, Cuttack, Odisha-753015 through Shri KANANBALA ROY CHOUDHURY, Advocate, High Court of Orissa Cuttack. E-mail : karanadv14@gmail.com .
2. Chairman/MD, Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Ltd., Sahara India Bhawan, 1 Kapoorthala Complex, Aliganj, Lucknow, U.P. - 226024 for compliance.
3. Chairman/MD, Humara India Credit Cooperative Ltd., Mangal Jyoti, 101,227/2, ACJ Bose Road, Kolkata, W.B. for compliance.

Copy to:

1. Shri P.K. Parhi, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Orissa High Court, Cuttack, New Annexe Building, 3rd Floor, High Court Complex, Cuttack, Chandini Chowk, Cuttack, Odisha-753002
(E-mail: asgi-orissahighcourt@gov.in & ohcasg@gmail.com) for information and filing a compliance report before the Hon'ble Court.