

The Odisha Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 1304, CUTTACK, SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2016 / SRAVAN 1, 1938

LAW DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 23rd July, 2016

S.R.O.No.324/2016—Whereas the Puri Shri Jagannath Temple (Administration) Act, 1952 has been enacted to consolidate the rights and duties of Sevaks, Pujaris and such other persons connected with the sevapuja and Management of Shri Jagannath Temple to prevent mismanagement thereof and its endowment;

And whereas for better administration and governance of Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri and its endowment, Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955 has also been enacted;

And whereas despite the aforesaid Acts, incidents of delay in performance of Niti-kanti and lack of proper management of Sevapuja of the Lords (deities) are noticed;

And whereas hindrances and disturbances in performing day-to-day Niti or Seva puja of the Lords hurt sentiment and emotion of millions of devotees;

And whereas in the recent past threat to Shri Jagannath Temple from terrorist activities and other corners poses a serious challenge to protect the temple and to improve the safety and security measures;

And whereas it is also felt necessary that the matters like propagation of Shri Jagannath Culture, disciplined and organized Darshan for the devotees, Welfare of Sevayat, Sevak, Pujari, Panda and their family members need to be addressed;

And whereas the State Government are of the opinion that it is necessary to appoint a Commission of Inquiry for the purpose of making an inquiry into above matters, which are matters of public importance;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 read with sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 (Act 60 of 1952), the State Government do hereby appoint a Commission of Inquiry consisting of Hon'ble Sri Justice Bimal Prasad Das, a retired Judge of the Orissa High Court to enquire into and submit a report to the State Government in respect of the following matters, within six months from the date of publication of this notification in the Odisha Gazette, namely:—

1. Safety and Security and improvement of Shri Jagannath Temple at Puri:
 - (a) Measures to be taken regarding safety and security of Shri Jagannath Temple in the wake of terrorist threat and preservation of the temple and its monument;
 - (b) Measures to be taken for proper maintenance of law and order inside as well as around the temple;
2. Better administration and management of the affairs of the Temple:
 - (a) Measures to be taken for efficient management of Niti-kanti and sevapuja of the Lords (deities) and streamlining the duties of employees of the Temple and persons connected thereto;
 - (b) Measures to be taken for ensuring timely supply of commodities required for performing Niti-kanti and sevapuja;
 - (c) Determination of payment of remuneration to different Sevaks, Pujaris and such other persons employed for or connected with the sevapuja and the management of the temple and its endowments;
3. Facilities for devotees:
 - (a) Measures to be taken for beautification of the temple, facilitating smooth Darshan and Mahaprasad Seban for the devotees;
 - (b) Measures to be taken for providing better communication and accommodation facilities at Puri for the devotees at reasonable cost and parking of vehicles;
4. Welfare measures for Sevakas, Pujaris and person connected with the sevapuja and management and their family members, relating to education and training, health and housing facilities;
5. Measures to be taken for wide spread propagation of Sri Jagannath Culture; and

6. Any other matters connected with or incidental thereto as the Commission may consider appropriate.

Further, the State Government are of the opinion that having regard to the nature of enquiry to be made and other circumstances of the case, provisions of sub-sections (2) to (5) (both inclusive) of section 5 of the said Act should be made applicable to conduct this inquiry by the Commission and accordingly the State Government direct that the aforesaid provisions shall apply to the Commission.

The Headquarters of the Commission shall be at Cuttack and may also visit such places as may be necessary in furtherance of the inquiry.

[No. 6995—JTA-12/16/L]

By order of the Governor

BIBHU PRASAD ROUSTRAY

Principal Secretary to Government.