

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

Contempt Case(C)No.1024 of 2023

Dated this the 06th day of November, 2023

ORDER

I can only speak in exasperation that, in spite of the specific observations in the order dated 31.10.2023, the Chief Secretary has filed an affidavit saying that he will require another three months time to complete certain tests and to obtain reports from the “Expert Committee”.

2. The pathos of the people who are caught between the two industries, somehow appeared to have escaped the attention of the competent Authorities, even when this Court directed them to do so on war footing.

3. To make it worse, the Chief Secretary says that ‘he has got pre-scheduled engagements throughout next week’ and therefore, cannot appear before this Court. He adds that he is the General Convener of the ongoing prestigious “Keraleeyam” programme and he has been entrusted with multifarious tasks in that regard. One really fails to understand how he would obtain time to see the stated prejudice of the petitioners in these circumstances.

4. If, what the petitioners say are true, then every passing day would be subjecting them to irreparable detriment, particularly to the old and infirm.

5. The State appears to be now taking their own time, in spite of the fact that the judgment of this Court was delivered as early as on 08.04.2022; and during 8 months period thereafter, the competent Authorities have not been able to even verify whether if what the petitioners say are true or otherwise. This is tragic to say the least.

6. I, therefore, *suo motu* implead the Central Pollution Control Board, represented by Member Secretary, Office of the Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032, on the party array .

7. The Chief Secretary of State of Kerala shall appear online on the next posting date, whatever be the “pre-scheduled engagements” he may have.

8. I must record that since this Court had only asked the Officer to appear online, one cannot understand why he could not spare even five or ten minutes to do so. I leave it there for the time being.

9. Show the name of Sri.S.Manu - learned Deputy

Solicitor General of India in the cause list.

List on 08.11.2023 at 2.00 p.m.

Sd/-

**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE**

MC