

TUESDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

WP(PIL) No. 168 of 2026

ADV. ARJUN V.S

VS

STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SRI.T.A.UNNIKRISHNAN, SHRI,ARJUN VARMA, SMT.T. SREELAKSHMI
UNNIKRISHNAN, SHRI.ROHITH R., SMT.BHAGYALAKSHMI P. S.

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

SOUMEN SEN, C. J. & SYAM KUMAR V. M., J.

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W.P.(PIL) No. 168 of 2026

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Dated this the 18th day of August, 2026

Appearance:

For the petitioner : Mr. T. A. Unnikrishnan
Ms. Molly Jacob, SC-R3
Mr. Biju Meenattoor, Sr. GP

ORDER

Soumen Sen, C.J.

The petitioner is an Advocate. He filed this Public Interest Litigation alleging that there has been corruption in the public distribution system in Kerala. The petitioner has referred to the relevant provisions of the Civil Supplies Manual and sample agreement entered into between the 2nd respondent and the mills. It is submitted that for the last two years, a highly organised lobby comprising certain private rice mill owners and corrupt officials of the 2nd respondent has systematically high-jacked the Decentralised Paddy

Procurement Scheme (DCP) which was designed for procuring paddy from registered farmers and ensuring its conversion to Custom Milled Rice (CMR) for distribution through the public distribution system. The petitioner has disclosed certain data regarding allocation of paddy as 'padam allocation status' available in the website supplycopaddy.in for the allocation period 2024-2025 and data for two mills for the year 2025-2026 to show that they have been favoured in supersession and contravention of the procurement policy. The petitioner has also referred to Ext. P6 representation made to the Director, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram on 7th July 2026.

2. Learned counsel for the 3rd respondent has submitted that steps in fact have been taken against the rice mills of which the petitioner is aware of, and in this regard, reference is made to paragraph 13 of the petition wherefrom it appears that the 3rd respondent has initiated action against ten other rice mills for their failure to deliver the requisite quantity of Custom Milled Rice.

3. In view of the facts that steps have already been

initiated, we direct the Vigilance and Anti-corruption Bureau to consider the said complaint and if found that there is basis for the said complaint, to take steps in accordance with law. The 3rd respondent shall continue to initiate action against those who have violated the norms and guidelines regarding the Decentralised Paddy Procurement Scheme and shall take appropriate steps against the rice mills or the persons responsible for violation of such scheme.

4. Post on 30th September 2026. A statement shall be filed with regard to the compliance of this order.

**Sd/-
SOUMEN SEN,
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
SYAM KUMAR V. M.,
JUDGE**

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