CNR : KLHC010664042026

2026:KER:86286

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE BASANT BALAJI

WEDNESDAY, THE 11TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026 / 20TH KARTHIKA, 1948

OP (CAT) NO. 182 OF 2026

AGAINST THE ORDER DATED 15.12.2025 IN OA NO.417 OF 2023 OF CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, ERNAKULAM BENCH

PETITIONERS/RESPONDENTS:

1 UNION OF INDIA
REPRESENTED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL POSTS,
DAK BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN – 110001.

2 THE CHIEF POST MASTER GENERAL
KERALA CIRCLE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033

3 THE DIRECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICES
O/O THE CHIEF POST MASTER GENERAL,
KERALA CIRCLE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033

4 THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF RAILWAY MAIL SERVICES, RMS TV DIVISION,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN – 695023.

BY ADV SHRI.B.RAJESH (KOTTAYAM)

RESPONDENT/APPLICANT:

R.LAILA, AGED 61 YEARS, W/O M.BABU NAIR,
LSG SUPERVISOR, SRO KOLLAM, RMS TV DIVISION,
KOLLAM 691001, PRESENTLY RESIDING AT
'KAMALA MANDIRAM', LEO NAGAR-17,
VALATHUNGAL PO, KOLLAM, PIN - 691011.

THIS OP (CAT) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 11.11.2026, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

'C.R.'

JUDGMENT

Devan Ramachandran, J.

The controversy in this case arose from the respondent presenting a bill for Transfer Allowance, which the petitioners suspected to be false.

2. It transpires that an inquiry was conducted through the Inspector of Posts (IP), who submitted a report stating that he had visited the house where the respondent was stated to have resided; to have then taken a statement from a person by name Sri.Shibu, who informed him that the respondent was his relative and that the respondent stayed at that address from March 2020 to October 2020.

3. Based on the afore, action was

initiated against the respondent disciplinarily for having presented incorrect 'TA bill'.

4. The respondent produced certain documents - though the petitioners say such were produced only at the appellate stage – including a letter from the owner of the house, confirming that the respondent had resided there on rent.

5. The petitioners, however, did not accede credibility to the respondent; but went by the report of the 'IP', to thus impose punishment on her.

6. The respondent, thereupon, filed the Original Application before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam Bench (Tribunal), which has now been allowed by it, through its order dated 15.12.2025; against which, the petitioners are before us.

7. Two aspects are very glaring in this case.

8. For the first, the entire disciplinary action has proceeded upon the report of the 'IP', without summoning or citing any witness, including the person by name Sri.Shibu. The respondent was merely permitted to verify the report of the 'IP' at the Office of the 4th petitioner, to which, she submitted a reply in defence, asserting that the contents thereof were untrue. The learned Tribunal has concluded that, at that stage, an inquiry under Rule 16(1) of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 [CCS (CCA) Rules], ought to have been initiated. We offer full approval to this.

9. For the second, even when the

respondent produced a document in her favour – being a letter from the owner of the house - by name Smt.Nalini, the same was disregarded; and it was explained at the Bar today by Sri.B.Rajesh – learned Senior Panel Counsel for the petitioners, that this was because the same had been produced only at the appellate stage.

10. It is rather pertinent that a certificate issued by the owner of the house has been completely discarded; while, the statement of a person stated to be an NRI - who is not ordinarily available in India and whose relationship with the owner has not even been cogently established - has been wholly relied upon by the Authorities.

11. The learned Tribunal, therefore, has acted correctly, and we find no reason to

intervene.

This Original Petition is consequently. dismissed.

Sd/-

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN

JUDGE

Sd/-

BASANT BALAJI

JUDGE

akv

APPENDIX OF OP (CAT) NO. 182 OF 2026

PETITIONER ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE A1	TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER NO. ST/B-2/2022 DATED 28/27.6.2022 ISSUED BY THE 3RD RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE A2	TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER NO. K-DISC/16-07/2021 DATED 15.3.2022 ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE A6	TRUE COPY OF THE MEMORANDUM NO. K-DISC/16-07/2021 DATED 27.12.2021 ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT
ANNEXURE A3	TRUE COPY OF THE TA BILL DATED 2.11.2021 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT.
ANNEXURE A4	TRUE COPY OF THE MEMO NO. J-7/TFR TA CORR DATED 15.11.2021 ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE A5	TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION DATED 23.11.2021 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT.
ANNEXURE 7	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO. K-DISC/16-07/2021 DATED 10.1.2022 ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE A8	TRUE COPY OF THE STATEMENT OF DEFENCE DATED 22.1.2022 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT
ANNEXURE A9	TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER NO. K-DISC/16-07/2021 DATED 31.1.2022 ISSUED BY THE 4TH RESPONDENT.
ANNEXURE A10	TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION DATED 07.02.2022 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT.
ANNEXURE A11	TRUE COPY OF THE APPEAL DATED 19.04.2022 SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT
EXHIBIT P1	TRUE PHOTOCOPY OF THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 417/2023 FILED BY THE

	RESPONDENT/APPLICANT BEFORE THE CAT, EMAKULAM BENCH
EXHIBIT P2	TRUE COPY OF THE REPLY STATEMENT FILED BY THE RESPONDENTS IN OA 417/2023 BEFORE THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P3	TRUE COPY OF ORDER DATED 15.12.2025 PASSED BY THE CAT, EMAKULAM BENCH