

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRAN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HARISANKAR V. MENON

Wednesday, the 27th day of March 2024 / 7th Chaithra, 1946
DBP NO. 25 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVANCORE, COCHIN, MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARDS AND GURUVAYOOR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR ALLOWING WHEEL CHAIRS INSIDE THE TEMPLE(NAALAMBALAM) TO FACILITATE DIFFERENTLY ABLED DEVOTEES TO HAVE DARSHAN AT TEMPLES IN KERALA - SUO MOTU PROCEEDINGS INITIATED ON THE BASIS OF A COMPLAINT DATED 04.02.2024 SUBMITTED BY CA T.SUGANDHI-REG:

PETITIONER:

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS:



1. STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
REVENUE (DEVASWOM DEPARTMENT), SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
PIN - 695001
2. TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, NANTHANCOD, KOWDIAR POST,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
3. COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD
REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, ROUND NORTH, THRISSUR,
PIN - 680001
4. GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE
GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM, GURUVAYUR, REPRESENTED BY ITS ADMINISTRATOR,
PIN - 680101

5. MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD

**REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, HOUSEFED COMPLEX, ERANJHIPALAM,
KOZHIKODE, PIN - 673003**

BY SRI.S.RAJMOHAN, SR.GOVERNMENT PLEADER

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR COCHIN DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR MALABAR DEVASWOM BOARD

BY STANDING COUNSEL FOR GURUVAYUR DEVASWOM MANAGING COMMITTEE

**BY ADV.SRI.V.RAMKUMAR NAMBIAR, AMICUS CURIAE (By Order dated
27/03/2024 in DBP 25/2024)**

**THE DEVASWOM BOARD PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ORDERS AGAIN ON
27/03/2024, UPON PERUSING THE PETITION AND THIS COURT'S ORDER DATED
21/03/2024, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING.**



ANIL K. NARENDRAN & HARISANKAR V. MENON, JJ.

D.B.P. No.25 of 2024

Dated this the 27th day of March, 2024

ORDER

Anil K. Narendran, J.

This DBP is registered *suo motu* vide proceedings in File No.HCKL/1447/2024-DI-4, based on a complaint/request dated 04.02.2024 made by the complainant, seeking permission to allow wheelchairs inside the 'Naalambalam' of temples, enabling physically challenged devotees to have a proper darshan. In the complaint, it is also stated that for physically challenged women, the usage of wheelchair is much essential for mobility purposes. The complainant also stated that the father and husband of the complainant had to shoulder her to have darshan. The deities are at such heights, it would be very difficult to view the deity by sitting on the ground. Such restrictions will reduce the tempo of spiritual worship and discourage the morale of devotees. Hence it is requested to help such physically challenged people to reach the Sanctum Sanctorum.

2. On 21.03.2024, when this matter came up for consideration, the learned Senior Government Pleader and the respective Standing Counsel for Travancore Devaswom Board, Cochin Devaswom Board,

Guruvayur Devaswom Managing Committee and Malabar Devaswom Board sought time to get instructions.

3. Having considered the preliminary submissions made by the learned Senior Government Pleader and the respective Standing Counsel for the Devaswom Boards/Managing Committee, we deem it appropriate to direct the respondents to place on record individual affidavits explaining the facts and circumstances with the suggestions, if any, by the respective Devaswoms, within a period of four weeks.

4. Adv. V. Ramkumar Nambiar, a lawyer of this Court, is appointed as Amicus Curiae to assist the Court.

5. Show the name of the learned Amicus Curiae in the cause list.

6. Registry to issue a physical copy of the DBP to the learned Amicus Curiae today itself.

Post on 20.05.2024.

Sd/-
ANIL K. NARENDRAN,
JUDGE

Sd/-
HARISANKAR V. MENON
JUDGE

vpv