

**Serial No. 01**  
**Regular List**

**HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA**  
**AT SHILLONG**

PIL No. 3/2023

Date of order: 25.07.2023

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Flaming B. Marak vs. State of Meghalaya & 14 Ors.

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**Coram:**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice**  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge**

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**Appearance:**

For the Petitioner : Mr. P.T. Sangma, Adv.  
For the Respondents : Mrs. T. Yangi B., AAG with  
Ms. S. Laloo, GA  
Ms. A. Thungwa, GA  
Mr. A.S. Pandey, Adv. (VC) [R2-15]

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A status report has been filed by the State and the State submits that the shortfall in demand has now been reduced to 13 per cent across the State.

2. Such shortfall is quite significant and the State would do well to ensure that the entirety of the shortfall is removed within a reasonable time. At the same time, both the petitioner and the citizens should understand that these measures have a gestation gap and take some time and cannot be addressed overnight. There are revenue and expense issues, infrastructure project issues and, at the end of the day, they are matters of policy.

3. However, the State may be well advised to look into the prospect of setting up small water-based power plants in view of the hilly terrain, the heavy rains and the availability of flowing water for most parts of the year. Smaller power projects would also ensure that large deforestation need not be resorted to. In places, the terrain is tailor-made for small hydel projects. At other places, existing hydel projects may be augmented.

4. A blueprint requires to be prepared as to the steps necessary to be taken with empirical studies on the expected demand say five years or 15 years down the line and the infrastructure development to be undertaken by the State to meet such increased demand over a period of time. There is no band-aid solution which may be resorted to in this case.

5. It is hoped that the outlines of a long-term plan to ensure that there is no shortfall of electricity in the State after, say, five or eight years, would be presented to Court when the matter appears next six weeks hence.

6. For the limited purpose of meeting the immediate demand, the State should also explore the possibilities of availing of power from the

open grid or from other Central power agencies which have excess supply available.

7. It is recorded that the State submits that the Ganol Hydrel Project has already been synchronised and it is expected to be commissioned on August 1, 2023. More such projects are necessary.

8. List on September 8, 2023.

**(W. Diengdoh)**  
**Judge**

**(Sanjib Banerjee)**  
**Chief Justice**

Meghalaya  
25.07.2023  
"Santosh, P.S."

