

Kerala High Court Orders Release Of Electricity Charges To Private College Requisitioned As COVID Treatment Centre

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

V.G. ARUN; J.

WP(C) NO. 24970 OF 2022; 28th October 2022

MOUNT ZION COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING *versus* STATE OF KERALA

Petitioner by Adv Jestin Mathew

Respondents by Advs. R. Harishankar, Nidhi Balachandran, V.K. Sunil, SC for R8, GP Riyal Devassy; SC for KSEB Adv. Harishankar

J U D G M E N T

The College and hostel buildings of the petitioner, a Self Financing Engineering College, was requisitioned as a Covid First Line Treatment Centre from 21.05.2020 to 20.12.2020. The petitioner has been issued with Ext. P2 Bill demanding arrears of electricity consumption charges for the period March, 2020 to February, 2021. The petitioner has approached the authorities seeking payment of the bill amount. The District Collector, Pathanamthitta, in his capacity as Chairperson, Disaster Management Authority, having failed to accede to the request, this writ petition is filed.

2. The Chairperson, Disaster Management Authority has filed a statement stating that the electricity charges for the petitioner's College and hostel building for the period 21.05.2020 to 20.12.2020 will be paid by the respondent without delay, after calculating the electricity charges in accordance with Annexure R4(a) Guidelines of KSEB Limited.

In view of the above assurance, the writ petition is disposed of directing the 4th respondent to disburse the amount due to the petitioner within an outer limit of two months.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the buildings were requisitioned during the period from April, 2021 to May, 2021 also. Hence, claiming electricity charges for that period, the petitioner has submitted Ext. P14 representation. The 4th respondent is hence directed to take a decision on Ext. P14 within two months.

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