

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

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**W.P.(C) No.13202/2010, 1126/2013, 23900/2016,
28817/2020, 21132/2021**

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Dated this the 10th day of March, 2022

ORDER

Read order dated 24.08.2021 and 18.01.2022.

2. The learned Senior Government Pleader - Sri.Jafar Khan submitted that an affidavit has been filed today, sworn to by the Assistant Commissioner, Land Revenue Commissionerate, detailing the measures taken to identify lands, so as to accommodate the petitioners and such other persons. He submitted that earnest efforts are being now taken to sort out the issues, but that the scarcity of assignable 'Puramboke' in Kerala is posing an impediment.

3. Though this Court has not examined the contents of the affidavit in detail, the stand taken, that the lands ready for distribution is not available in Kerala, certainly, causes some concern. I say this because, once the Government gave an assurance, which was indited into an agreement, then certainly, it is meant to be complied with and honoured; otherwise, the very sanctity of a sovereign guarantee would stand eroded.

4. As this Court has been emphasizing in its earlier orders, as we are leaping forward with major projects, which will also create additional burden on the lands available, the failure to honour earlier commitments will create a huge cause of concern in future.

5. The issues presently presented itself arose out of an agitation, which had its own sordid consequences; and I am sure that the citizens of the State or the Administration would not like events like that to happen again.

6. There is an underlying concept of social justice involved in these matters and hence it is the sovereign obligation of the State to honour the commitments under the agreement in question.

7. Excuses would be of no avail because petitioners and other effected persons have been awaiting justice for the last several years.

8. However, since the Government says that they have detailed the steps taken by them in the affidavit dated 01.02.2022 and since the same has been made available to this Court only today, I deem it appropriate to adjourn this matter to be called on 29.03.2022, so that it can be examined better and so that the petitioners can respond to it appropriately.

**Sd/-
DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
JUDGE**

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