

SUO MOTO PROCEEDINGS

It has been reliably brought to the information of this Court that at least two persons were electrocuted yesterday because an overhead electric line snapped and fell on the road during the ongoing monsoons. I am also informed that the Press, both print and visual, have covered this incident quite in detail and that the proximate cause for this accident has been the heavy rains that lashed the concerned area.

2. This Court is exercising jurisdiction in "Electricity Matters" and is concerned with the various Statutes, Rules and Regulations relating to electric supply and its imperative safety requirements; and I am of the firm view that this Court cannot, therefore, be blind to this incident that has taken away the lives of two citizens of this State. I feel the situation to be grave because this is something that can happen with respect to any electric line in the State and such an accident can befall any citizen. Indubitably therefore, the Electricity Board will have to now come up with concrete solutions to ensure that such incidents do not happen in the future.

3. With this limited perspective in mind, I deem it appropriate to direct the Registry to register a *suo moto* writ

petition arraying the State of Kerala, represented by its Chief Secretary, as the first respondent and the Kerala State Electricity Board, represented by the Secretary, to be the second respondent. The paper reports with respect to the incident shall be appended to this writ petition as exhibits and the Registry shall place the file before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for necessary orders and list this matter for further consideration, subject to the orders to be issued by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

I make it clear that my endeavor in this writ petition is not to cause any investigation to the incident that has happened or to speak upon the events led to the horrific accident; but to ensure that the Electricity Board comes up with concrete proposals to ensure that such events do not happen in the future.

I feel this pertinent and vital because the State is now facing monsoons again.

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
JUDGE

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