

DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN, J.

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W.P.(C) No.32680 of 2008
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Dated this the 20th day of December, 2019

ORDER

Sri.K.V.Manoj Kumar, the learned Senior Government Pleader, submits that a statement has been filed on behalf of the third respondent wherein the progress of the works with respect to the maintenance and repair of the various roads around the Kochi have been detailed. He says that more than 85 km. of roads will have to be repaired and that this will be done within the time frames that had been already fixed by this Court, namely 31.12.2019 as far as the PWD roads are concerned and 31.01.2020 as far as the Corporation roads are concerned.

2. Sri.Sudhish Kumar, learned standing counsel for the Kochi Corporation also submits that various roads under their jurisdiction are being repaired on an urgent basis and that he will be in a position to report before this Court as regards the progress of the work in the next few weeks.

3. The learned Amici Curiae have filed their first reports before this Court wherein more than 50 photographs have been produced, which really shows the condition of the roads in the

city of Kochi. Needless to say, the pictures speak a very dismal story and it is only on account of the inspection conducted by the Amici Curiae that this Court is now being aware of the magnitude of the problem. Some of the pictures show that the pedestrian paths have huge craters or have slabs missing, which can also be killers if a hapless citizen is to use it; while the other pictures show the sweep of the scourge of potholes and craters in the roads. Obviously, substantial works remain to be done, but this Court can now hope that on account of the intervention by the Amici Curiae as per the directions of this Court, things will get better in the days to come.

4. It will not be out of place to record at this time that this Court has also received a letter from a young boy, by name Aarav M.Kamath, who is studying in the third standard at St.Juliyanas Public School, Perumpadappu requesting this Court to intervene with respect to the road in front of his school, namely the "Pai Road" and "Perumpadappu Road".

5. Sri.Sudhish Kumar, learned counsel for the Kochi Corporation, submits that immediate works with respect to these roads will be taken up and completed, particularly taking note of the presence of the school children in the area, including those

studying in the nearby nursery school.

6. Since this Court is now told by all the stakeholders that work is continuing, I do not deem it necessary to issue any further orders at this stage but to adjourn this matter to 15.01.2020, so as to monitor further progress.

Needless to say, the learned Amici Curiae will be at full liberty to keep track of the works in progress and also to interact with all concerned stakeholders, including the District Collector, if they feel that any specific intervention is required from their side.

List this case on 15.01.2020.

The Registry is directed to incorporate the letter sent by Master Aarav M.Kamath on the files of this case and to give a copy of the same to the learned Amici Curiae.

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**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
JUDGE**