

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
&
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K. V. JAYAKUMAR

Friday, the 14th day of August 2026 / 23rd Sravana, 1948
WP(C) NO. 38049 OF 2024(E)

PETITIONER:

DR. MAHENDRA KUMAR P.S., AGED 36 YEARS, S/O PRASANNA KUMARI. D,
ELAMPANA VILAKATHVADAKKE VEEDU, UCHAKKADA P.O., KULATHOOR VILLAGE,
NEYYATTINKARA TALUK, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT, PIN - 695506

RESPONDENTS:

1. THE STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE (DEVASWOM) GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM GPO, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
2. THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR P.O, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
3. THE COMMISSIONER TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, DEVASWOM HEAD QUARTERS, NANTHANCODE, KAWDIAR P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695003
4. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER SABARIMALA SREE DHARMA SASTHA TEMPLE, SABARIMALA. P.O, RANNI-PERUNAD VILLAGE, RANNI TALUK, PATHANAMTHITTA DISTRICT, PIN - 689662
5. THE DEPUTY DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER, PATHANAMTHITTA,, PIN - 689645
6. THE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD SAFETY COMMISSIONERATE OF FOOD SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, THYCAUD, THIRUVNANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695014
7. FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (FSSAI) FDA BHAWAN, KOTLA ROAD, NEW DELHI REPRESENTED BY ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PIN - 110002
8. ADDL.R8: MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ROOM NO.348, 'A' WING, NIRMA BHAWAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110011, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY * ADDL.R8 IS SUO MOTU IMPLEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 04.12.2024 IN WP(C)38049/2024

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the respondents 2 to 5 to immediately to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure by an expert body for procurement, quality checking and analysing the standards prescribed by the Regulating agency of the Government within a time frame pending this petition in the interest of justice.

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this court's order dated 24.06.2025 and upon hearing the arguments of M/S.K.R.RAJKUMAR,

JAGADEESH LAKSHMAN, AROMALUNNI M.S., R.K.RAKESH, NANDANA BABU T. & SREELAKSHMI P.S. Advocates for the petitioner, **SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER** for respondent 1 & 6, **STANDING COUNSEL** for respondents 2 to 5, **SMT.CHITHRA P.GEORGE, STANDING COUNSEL** for respondent 7 and of **DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA (INCHARGE)** for additional respondent 8, the court passed the following:



FRIDAY, THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

SSCR No. 84 of 2024

SUO MOTU

VS

STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

NIL

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, SMT.CHITHRA P.GEORGE, SC, FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, ADDL.DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION

FRIDAY, THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026

WP(C) No. 38049 of 2024

DR. MAHENDRA KUMAR P S

VS

THE STATE OF KERALA & OTHERS

ADVS FOR PETITIONER/S:

SRI.K.R.RAJKUMAR, SHRI.JAGADEESH LAKSHMAN,
SHRI.AROMALUNNI M.S., SRI.R.K.RAKESH, SMT.NANDANA BABU
T., SMT.SREELAKSHMI P.S.

ADVS FOR RESPONDENT/S:

GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SHRI.G.BIJU, SC, TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD, SMT.CHITHRA P.GEORGE, SC, FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA, ADDL.DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION

**RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V.,
&
K.V. JAYAKUMAR, JJ.**

S.S.C.R. No. 84 of 2024 & W.P.(C) No. 38049 of 2024

Dated this the 14th day of August, 2026

ORDER

Raja Vijayaraghavan V, J.

Today, when the matter was taken up, the learned counsel appearing for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India submitted that, pursuant to the directions issued by this Court, an inspection was undertaken on 11.08.2026. However, as the Temple remained closed on that day, a comprehensive inspection could not be carried out. The learned counsel further submitted that immediately after the reopening of the Temple, the officers of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India would conduct a detailed inspection and place a comprehensive report before this Court.

2. The learned Standing Counsel appearing for the Travancore Devaswom Board submitted that, at present, only a small laboratory is available at Pamba, and that it is not equipped to conduct exhaustive and continuous testing of Aravana, Appam, and other food items. As a result, samples have to be transported to the more equipped laboratories at Pathanamthitta or Thiruvananthapuram for analysis. It was further submitted that the existing arrangement is not adequate to ensure prompt and effective quality control. We

are of the considered view that it is high time that a fully fledged and comprehensive food testing laboratory is established at Pamba itself, so that the requisite tests can be conducted there without delay, thereby ensuring strict compliance with food safety standards.

3. The learned Special Government Pleader shall obtain specific instructions from respondents 1, 10 and 11 regarding the feasibility and the manner in which a fully fledged food testing laboratory can be established at Pamba. Instructions shall also be obtained as regards the infrastructure, manpower and other requirements necessary for setting up such a facility, so that food testing can be carried out at Pamba itself and the highest standards of food safety are effectively maintained. The time frame within which such a facility can be commenced at Pamba shall also be stated.

Post on 14.09.2026.

Sd/-
RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V.,
JUDGE

Sd/-
K.V. JAYAKUMAR,
JUDGE

BR