

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No(s).1985-1986/2006

(From the judgement and order dated 19/12/2005 in RN No. 2/2005 & dated 23.12.2005 in DBA No. 169/2005 of The HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM)

N.RAVIKUMAR & ANR.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With appln(s) for directions and prayer for interim relief and office report)

Date: 05/01/2007 These Petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHOK BHAN
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DALVEER BHANDARI

For Petitioner(s)Ms. V. Mohana,Adv.

For Respondent(s)Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Sr. Adv.

Mr. K. Radhakrishnan, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Bina Madhavan, Adv.

Mr. Rahul Pratap Singh, Adv. for

M/S. Lawyer'S Knit & Co.

Mr. T.L.V. Iyer, Sr. Adv.

Mr. S. Balakrishnan, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Subramonium Prasad ,Adv

Mr. S.N. Jha, Adv.

Mr. R. Gopal Krishan, Adv.

Mr. Jay Kishor Singh, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appeal stands disposed of in terms of the signed order.

(J.S. Rawat)

AR-cum-PS

(Kanwal Singh)

Court Master

[Signed order is placed on the file]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 71 OF 2007

(Arising out of SLP(C) Nos. 1985-1986 of 2006)

N. Ravikumar & Anr.Appellant(s)

Versus

Travancore Devaswom Board & Ors. Respondent(s)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

On 15th of December, 2006 we had directed the parties to explore possibility for a solution with regard to the special queue for darshan at Sabarimala Temple. Pursuant to the said direction, the following persons/categories of persons have been identified by the parties, who should be admitted in the Sopanam Enclosure in front of the Sreekovil for darshan without causing any obstruction to the devotees standing in the general queue:

A.

(i)

President and two Members of the Board.

(ii)

Statutory Commissioner

(iii)

Secretary of the Board.

(iv)

Sabarimala Devaswom Manager.

(v)

Sabarimala Devaswom Executive Officer and Assistant Executive.

(vi)

Chief Engineer of the Board

(vii)

Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer stationed at Sabarimala.

(viii)

Bhandaram Special Officer.

(ix)

Sopanam Officer.

(x)

Malikapuram Chief Priest and his two Assistants.

(xi)

Guest House Manager.

(xii)

Accommodation Officer.

(xiii)

Police Officials Posted at the Sannidhanam of the rank of superintendent of Police and above.

(xiv)

The Chief Coordinators numbering two.

(xv)

Essential Class IV staff for cleaning purposes.

B.

Special Commissioner appointed by the High Court.

C.

(i)

Officials (numbering three) carrying Thanka Anki from Aranmula Temple for Mandala Pooja on the day on which Thanka Anki is brought to the Temple.

(ii)

Members of the Pandalam Palace and Officers of the Board carrying Thiruvabharanom on January 14 every year.

ENTRY OF TICKET HOLDERS:

(i)

With regard to the Udayasthamana Pooja is booked till 2010. Cost of ticket is Rs.20,000/-. Since devotees have booked for this pooja years before, the family members limited to six may be permitted entry for three Poojas on that day. This pooja is not being performed during mandalam month.

(ii)

With regard to Padipooja, tickets have been booked till 2017 and cost for ticket is Rs.30,000/-

This pooja is not being performed during mandalam month. It is agreed between parties that six members of the family would be permitted during performance of this pooja.

(iii)

With regard to Nitya Pooja (Rs.2,500/-), Uccha Pooja (Rs.2,000/-) and Usha Pooja (Rs.501/-) the tickets for these poojas are issued a day before and these poojas are performed daily even during mandalam month. As far as these poojas are concerned, devotees who have booked the first five tickets each day for each of the above pooja may be allowed darshan.

With regard to Entry of Guests and Dignitaries, the following consensus in respect of the following category of persons has been reached between the parties :

(i)VIPs. accompanied by a maximum of four persons.

(ii)Former VIPs.

With regard to Entry of Children and Physically Disabled, the parties have agreed that the persons mentioned in this category shall be allowed darshan of the deity from the raised platform on the left side of the queue, without causing any obstruction to the devotees standing in the general queue and would be permitted to be accompanied by one person each. The above terms shall be subject to the condition that at no time will there be more than ten persons present in the Sopanam.

However, if there is any difficulty in working out the above arrangement, the parties would be at liberty to approach this Court within six months from today, whereafter no application for variation of this order shall be entertained.

The appeal stands disposed of accordingly.

.....J.

(ASHOK BHAN)

New Delhi;.....J.

January 05, 2007.(DALVEER BHANDARI)