

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE T.R.RAVI
FRIDAY, THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 2020 /4TH VAISAKHA, 1942
Suo Motu W.P. (C). NO.9500 OF 2020

PETITIONER

SUO MOTU

RESPONDENTS :

1. STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY,
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
2. THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
ERNAKULAM.
3. THE KERALA WATER AUTHORITY,
JALABHAVAN, VELLAYAMBALAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 033.
4. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.
5. KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD,
REPRESENTED BY ITS MEMBER SECRETARY,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Suo Motu WP(C) 9500 of 2020.

2

BY GOVT.PLEADER SRI P.NARAYANAN

SHRI BENJAMIN PAUL FOR R3

SRI T.NAVEEN FOR R4

THIS WRIT PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 24/04/2020,
THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:-

ORDER

Devan Ramachandran, J.

Shri T.Navin, learned Standing Counsel for the Pollution Control Board, submits that a first report with respect to the allegations of pollution and contamination of river Periyar has already been placed on record. He further submits that a further report of a panel including an expert Hydrologist and such other experts, are being prepared and that he will be able to place it on record by the next posting date.

2. Shri Manu Govind, learned counsel, submits that he intends to appear for an impleading petitioner and prays that the video recordings of the river, which are in the hands of the Pollution Control Board, upto 18/3/2020 may not be allowed to be erased, since they are extremely vital to the cause in these proceedings.

3. We find force in the afore submission and therefore, deem it appropriate to direct the Pollution Control Board not to erase or tamper or deal with the information that has been captured by the various CCTV cameras, installed on the banks of the river

Suo Motu WP(C) 9500 of 2020.

4

Periyar, upto 20/3/2020 until further orders are obtained from this Court. If the time frames for preservation of the data of the cameras have any limits, then the Pollution Control Board will transmit all such data to a storage mechanism so that this Court will be in a position to access the same if it is so necessary. It is so ordered.

Post on 5/5/2020.

**DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
JUDGE**

**T.R.RAVI,
JUDGE**

ms/DSN