## IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL K.NARENDRAN

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HARISANKAR V. MENON

Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2024 / 1st Sravana, 1946 WP(C) NO. 25129 OF 2024(S)

### SUO MOTU

### **RESPONDENTS:**

- 1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY (ROAD, TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS), MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT BHAWAN, 1, PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI, PIN 110001
- 2. THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE, ROOM NO. 74-B, NEW DELHI, PIN 110001
- 3. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695001
- 4. THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695001
- 5. THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, TRANSPORT COMMISSIONERATE, 2ND FLOOR, TRANS TOWERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695014
- 6. THE STATE POLICE CHIEF, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VAZHUTHACAUD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN 695014

This Suo Motu writ petition coming on for admission upon perusing the petition, this Court's order dated 18.07.2024 and upon hearing the arguments of SRI. N.S.DAYASINDHU SHREE HARI, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COUNSEL for R1 and R2, SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R3 to R5 and of SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER for R6, the court passed the following:

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### <u>ORDER</u>

### Anil K. Narendran, J.

This writ petition is registered *suo motu* based on the order of this Court dated 09.07.2024 in SSCR Nos.29, 30 and 36 of 2023, after obtaining the orders of the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice, in the matter of unauthorised display of name board, State Emblem, and also flashlights in motor vehicles, openly flouting the provisions contained in the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005, the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 and Rule 92A of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and the provisions contained in Rule 108 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

- 2. A third party has filed I.A.No.1 of 2024 seeking an order to implead himself as additional 7<sup>th</sup> respondent in this writ petition.
- 3. The learned Special Government Pleader opposes the relief sought for in that interlocutory application.
- 4. The learned Central Government Counsel seeks further time to get instructions regarding the vehicle bearing Registration No.TN-66/AR-7071, referred to in paragraph 8 of the order of this Court dated 18.07.2024, exhibiting State Emblem of India and two

sets of additional horns on the front bumper, obstructing the clear vision of the registration mark.

- 5. The learned Special Government Pleader would submit that on 07.07.2024 vehicle bearing registration No.KL-23/P-8383, which was owned by the Managing Director, Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd., Chavara, referred to in paragraph 3 of the order of this Court dated 18.07.2024, exhibiting State Emblem and flashlight, was used by the Principal Secretary to Government, Industries Department.
- 6. On a query made by this Court as to whether the vehicles owned by the Tourism Department, which are used for carrying constitutional dignitaries and authorities are fitted with backlit name boards in read background and backlit registration plates, openly flouting the requirements of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and also the safety standards prescribed in AIS-008-Installation Requirements of Lighting and Light-Signalling Devices for Motor Vehicles having more than three wheels, the learned Special Government Pleader seeks time to get instructions.

List on 30.07.2024 at 2.00 p.m.

Sd/-ANIL K. NARENDRAN, JUDGE

Sd/-**HARISANKAR V. MENON, JUDGE**