



2026:KER:61702

WP(PIL) NO. 167 OF 2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SOUMEN SEN

&

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SYAM KUMAR V.M.

TUESDAY, THE 11TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026 / 20TH SRAVANA, 1948

WP(PIL) NO. 167 OF 2026

PETITIONER/S:

SABU STEEPHEN
AGED 53 YEARS
S/O. C.STEEPHENSON, LILLY COTTAGE, PERUKAVU.P.O.,
PEYAD, TRIVANDRUM-695573.

BY ADV SABU STEEPHEN(PARTY-IN-PERSON)

RESPONDENT/S:

- 1 UNION OF INDIA,
REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HOME
AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NORTH BLOCK, NEW
DELHI, PIN - 110001
- 2 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
- 3 SECRETARY
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (GAD),
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN -
695001
- 4 DIRECTORATE OF TREASURIES
REPRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR, PATTOM P.O.,



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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695004

BY ADV SHRI.N.S.DAYA SINDHU SHREE HARI,
ADDITIONAL STANDING COUNSEL, CENTRAL BOARD OF
INDIRECT TAXES AND CUSTOMS (ERSTWHILE CENTRAL
BOARD OF EXCISE AND CUSTOMS)

BIJU MEENATTOOR-SR.GP

THIS WRIT PETITION (PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION)
HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 11.08.2026, THE COURT ON
THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:



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JUDGMENTDated this the 11th day of August 2026SOUMEN SEN, C.J.

Heard Mr. Sabu Steephen, Party in Person, Mr. N.S. Daya Sindhu Sreehari, learned Standing Counsel, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and Mr. Biju Meenattoor, learned Senior Government Pleader.

2. This Public Interest Litigation has been filed with the object of ensuring due recognition to the living freedom fighters. We appreciate the endeavour of the petitioner in espousing the cause of the living freedom fighters. However, the relief sought cannot be granted, as there is nothing on record to show that the living freedom fighters are being denied due medical assistance. The prayer for enhancement of the monthly pension payable under the Kerala Freedom Fighters Pension (KFFP) Scheme to a minimum of Rs.50,000/- per month may be considered by the State Administration, bearing in mind the contribution made by the



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freedom fighters to the freedom struggle. The State shall create a portal containing updated data of all living freedom fighters who are eligible to avail of any welfare scheme formulated by the State for their benefit.

3. A prayer has been made for the creation of a Special Welfare Fund by the Central and State Governments for the benefit of freedom fighters, permitting public contributions and donations towards their dignified care. The Central and State Governments shall consider the creation of such a Special Welfare Fund for the freedom fighters, keeping in view their invaluable contribution and sacrifices made during the freedom struggle.

The Public Interest Litigation is accordingly disposed of.

Sd/-

**SOUMEN SEN
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Sd/-

**SYAM KUMAR V.M.
JUDGE**

uu/11.08.2026



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APPENDIX OF WP(PIL) NO. 167 OF 2026

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

- Exhibit P1 A TRUE COPY OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION, DATED: 28-12-
2023, SUBMITTED TO THE HOME MINISTER OF
INDIA, SRI.AMIT SHAH, THROUGH EMAIL.
- Exhibit P2 A TRUE COPY OF THE PROOF OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION SUBMITTED TO
THE HOME MINISTER OF INDIA, SRI.AMIT
SHAH, ON 28-12-2023, THROUGH EMAIL.
- Exhibit P3 A TRUE COPY OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION, DATED: 28-12-
2023, SUBMITTED TO THE THEN CHIEF
MINISTER OF KERALA, SRI.PINARAYI
VIJAYAN, THROUGH CHIEF MINISTER'S
PUBLIC GRIEVANCE PORTAL.
- Exhibit P4 A TRUE COPY OF THE PROOF OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION, SUBMITTED TO
THE THEN CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA,
SRI.PINARAYI VIJAYAN, THROUGH CHIEF
MINISTER'S PUBLIC GRIEVANCE PORTAL, ON
29-12-2023, AND ITS STATUS.
- Exhibit P5 A TRUE COPY OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION, DATED: 08-06-
2026, SUBMITTED TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
OF KERALA, SRI.V.D.SATHEESAN, THROUGH
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC GRIEVANCE
PORTAL.
- Exhibit P6 A TRUE COPY OF THE PROOF OF THE
REPRESENTATION/PETITION, SUBMITTED TO
THE CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA,
SRI.V.D.SATHEESAN, THROUGH CHIEF
MINISTER'S PUBLIC GRIEVANCE PORTAL, ON
08-06-2026, AND ITS STATUS.
- Exhibit P7 A TRUE COPY OF THE RTI APPLICATION,
SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER BEFORE THE
RESPONDENT NO.4, DATED: 22-06-2026.
- Exhibit P8 A TRUE COPY OF THE RTI APPLICATION,
SUBMITTED BY THE PETITIONER BEFORE THE
RESPONDENT NO.4, DATED: 22-06-2026.