

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.MUHAMED MUSTAQUE

FRIDAY, THE 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2015/20TH AGRAHAYANA, 1937

WP(C).No. 36853 of 2015 (F)

PETITIONER(S):

**T.I.RAJU, AGED 68 YEARS,
S/O.LATE T.E.ITHAPIRI,
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR, THURUTHUMMEL HOUSE,
KUSUMAGIRI P.O., KOCHI-30.**

**BY ADVS.SMT.TESSY JOSE
SRI.JOHNY CHERIAN**

RESPONDENT(S):

- 1. KERALA WATER AUTHORITY,
REPRESENTED BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, JALABHAVAN,
VELLAYAMBALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM P.O.,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695036.**
- 2. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
K.W.A. P.H. CIRCLE, MALAPARAMBA, CALICUT-673009.**
- 3. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
KERALA WATER AUTHORITY, P.H. DIVISION,
KOZHIKODE-673009.**

BY SRI.GEORGE MATHEW, SC

**THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION
ON 11-12-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE
FOLLOWING:**

PJ

WP(C).No. 36853 of 2015 (F)

APPENDIX

PETITIONER(S)' EXHIBITS

**EXHIBIT.P1- A TRUE COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION DATED 5.5.2015 SENT BY THE
PETITIONER TO THE 2ND RESPONDENT.**

RESPONDENT(S)' EXHIBITS

NIL.

/ TRUE COPY /

P.S. TO JUDGE

PJ

A.MUHAMED MUSTAQUE, J.

W.P.(C) No.36853 of 2015

Dated this the 11th day of December, 2015

JUDGMENT

The writ petitioner executed the work of supply and laying pipe line of the Kerala Water Authority. One of the stipulations in the agreement is that the contractor should guarantee for satisfactory performance of pipe line completed by them for a period of 18 months, after the completion and commissioning of the pipe line.

2. Petitioner completed the work in the month of December, 2012. Petitioner approached this Court on account of delay in releasing the security deposit and retention amount.

3. The learned Standing Counsel for the Water Authority opposed the prayer. The learned Standing Counsel submits that the petitioner is entitled for release of the security deposit

and retention amount only after the commissioning of the pipe line. Learned Standing Counsel further submits that the agreement is very clear that the amount can be released only after 18 months of the completion and commissioning of the pipe line. It is to be noted that as per the agreement, the entire security deposit, including the retention amount total up to 8% of the contract value will be retained with Kerala Water Authority till the end of the guarantee period and the balance amount will be paid on satisfactory completion and commissioning of the pipe line as per the existing rule. Petitioner completed the work almost four years back. As per the terms of agreement, the Contractor should guarantee for satisfactory performance of pipe line completed by them for a period of 18 months, after the completion and commissioning of the pipe line. The 18 months period in the agreement would

assume significance in this context as far as the contractor is concerned, for the release of the amount. The completion and commissioning of the pipe line would indicate that the Water Authority has to commission the pipe line as soon as its work was completed by the contractor. Otherwise, the period of 18 months would not have been prescribed in the agreement. Therefore, it is clear that the commissioning of the pipe line ought to have been happened immediately after the completion of the work. The Water Authority, for its own reasons, delayed the commissioning of the pipe line. That cannot be pointed out against the petitioner to deny the release of the petitioner's security deposit and retention amount. If the intention of the parties was only to release the security deposit and retention amount only after the commissioning of the pipe line, there is no necessity to provide 18 months period after the completion

of the contract and it ought to have been 18 months after the commissioning of the pipe line. Therefore, 18 months after the completion necessarily would take into account that the petitioner would be entitled for the release of the security deposit and retention amount.

In such circumstances, this Court is of the view that even after two years, the Water Authority could not commission the pipe line cannot be a reason to withhold the security deposit and retention amount. Thus, there shall be a direction to release the security deposit and retention amount within two months on executing a simple bond by the petitioner.

This writ petition is disposed of as above.

Sd/-

A.MUHAMED MUSTAQUE, JUDGE

ln