

status quo pursuant to which they were continued to work.

By the impugned order dated 07.10.2020, the High Court vacated the interim order of status quo on the ground that the regular selection process has been taken up by the Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board to the post of LDC/Sub-Group Officer Grade II and the persons selected are awaiting appointment.

Mr. Gopal Shankarnarayan and Dr.K.P.Kylasanatha Pillay, learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners are entitled for regularization in accordance with the circular issued by the Government. It is submitted that their appointments were made after going through the selection process. It is further submitted that the Sabrimala season has started and there are number of vacancies that exist and they can be permitted to work.

We are not inclined to interfere with the order passed by the High Court which is interlocutory in nature. However, taking into account the fact that the petitioners have been working since 2011 and their services have been terminated pursuant to the vacation of the interim order, we request the High Court to expedite the hearing of the writ petition and dispose it of at the earliest and not later than three months from today. The petitioners are at liberty to approach the High Court to seek suitable directions to continue in the existing vacancies.

Needless to say that the petitioners are at liberty to approach the Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board and make a similar request to continue them in the existing vacancies especially, in view of the ensuing pilgrim season.

The Special Leave Petitions are disposed of. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(Geeta Ahuja)
Court Master

(Anand Prakash)
Court Master