



IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA
WRIT PETITION NO.731 OF 2024

PRASAD GOVIND GHODE AND ANR. Petitioners

Versus

STATE OF GOA, THR. DEPARTMENT OF
REVENUE AND 12 ORS. Respondents

Mr Shivraj Gaonkar and Mr S. Prabhudessai, Advocates for the petitioners.

Mr Deep Shirodkar, Additional Government Advocate for respondent Nos.1, 2 and 13.

Ms S. Bangera, Advocate for respondent Nos.3 to 7, 9, 10 and 12.

CORAM: **M. S. KARNIK &
NIVEDITA P. MEHTA, JJ**

DATED : **10th DECEMBER 2024**

P.C.:

1. We are informed that the hearing before the Administrator of Devalaya is concluded and now the matter is listed for orders on 17.12.2024. In such view of the matter, as the Administrator of Devalaya is seized of the issues which are raised in the petition, we do not propose to keep the petition pending. Liberty is kept open to the petitioner to file afresh if the order of the Administrator of Devalaya is adverse. The Administrator of Devalaya is requested to decide the proceedings expeditiously and in any event by the end of December 2024. All contentions of the parties are kept open.

2. Article 44 of the Devasthan Regulations prescribes the Government's role. The provision says that the elective part of the Committee may be dissolved by the Government with a prior consultation, in any of the following cases:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3) Non-presentation of the budgets in legal time limits and terms.

3. Therefore, it is open for the Administrator of Devalaya to place the matter as regards the allegation of non-presentation of the budgets in legal time limits and terms before the competent authority for consideration. The competent authority to take a decision on this aspect expeditiously. We have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the contentions. Keeping the liberty of the petitioner open, the petition is disposed of. No costs.

NIVEDITA P. MEHTA, J

M. S. KARNIK, J