

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA

LD-VC-CW NO. 163 OF 2020

Aires Rodrigues

..... Petitioner

V e r s u s

State of Goa

..... Respondents

Petitioner in person.

Mr. D. Pangam, Advocate General with Mr. S. P. Munj, Additional Government Advocate for the Respondent nos. 1, 2 and 3.

Coram :- M. S. SONAK &
M. S. JAWALKAR, JJ.

Date : 23rd September, 2020

ORAL ORDER

1. Heard Mr. Aires Rodrigues, the learned Counsel, who appears in person and Mr. D. Pangam, the learned Advocate General, for the respondents.

2. Admittedly, the post of Lokayukta has fallen vacant since 17.09.2020 consequent upon the retirement of Hon'ble Shri Justice P. K. Misra. The

petitioner seeks directions to the State Government to fill in the vacancy so that the Institution of Lokayukta is operational at the earliest.

3. The learned Advocate General pointed out that in terms of Goa Lokayukta Act, only a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a retired Chief Justice of any High Court, can be appointed as Lokayukta. He pointed out that the State Government has sent a communication to the Registrar of the Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking names of candidates who are eligible and willing to be appointed as Lokayukta. In these circumstances, the learned Advocate General states that it is not possible to indicate a clear date by which the appointment will be made.

4. Taking into consideration the mandate as well as purpose of enactment of Lokayukta Act, we feel that this vacancy has to be filled in as expeditiously as possible so that the institution of the Lokayukta functions in the State of Goa. Therefore, we direct the State to take effective steps to fill up this post as expeditiously as possible and, in any case, within a period of three months from today.

5. With these directions, we dispose off this petition.

M. S. JAWALKAR

M. S. SONAK, J.

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