

BEFORE THE KERALA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PRESENT: SHRI. A. SHAJAHAN,  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024

O.P. No. 53 of 2023

**Petitioner**

: K. Salim Kumar,  
District Secretary,  
Communist Party of India  
K.T Jacob Smarakam  
Pinavu P.O., Idukki

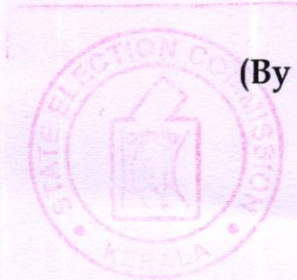
(By Adv. Bobby K. Joseph)

**Respondent**

: Thangamudi P.  
S/o Ponnayah  
Tea Factory Quarters,  
Tea Factory, Periavara Estate,  
Munnar

(Member, Ward No.8,  
Munnar Grama Panchayat)

(By Adv. A. Santhosh Kumar)





## ORDER

1. This is a petition filed under Section 3 and 4 (1) of the Kerala Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999.

The Petitioner's case in brief is as follows:

The Petitioner is the District Secretary of CPI, Idukki District and the Respondent is an elected member of Ward No: 8 of Munnar Grama Panchayat in general election, 2020. This petition is filed under section 4 of the Kerala Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999 for declaring the respondent, who is an elected member of ward No. 8 of Munnar Grama Panchayat, has committed defection and hence disqualified to continue as member of Munnar Grama Panchayat and also for declaring him as disqualified to contest as a candidate in any election to the local authorities for a period of six years.

2. The Petitioner's case in brief is as follows;- The petitioner is the Idukki District Secretary of the Communist Party of India ( CPI ). District Secretary is the person authorized by the political party to recommend the official symbol of the party "Ears of Corn and Sickle" to it's candidates. Respondent is the elected member of ward No. 8 of Munnar Grama Panchayat, who contested and elected as a candidate of CPI in the symbol "Ears of Corn and Sickle"
3. After the election, the respondent had given sworn declaration before the Secretary of the Munnar Grama panchayat stating his association with CPI political party as an elected member of CPI, which is part of LDF coalition. On the basis of the same, the Secretary of Munnar Grama Panchayat has prepared a Register showing the political association of the respondent as a member of CPI. On the basis of the same, the Secretary of Munnar Grama panchayat has prepared a Register showing the political affiliation of the respondent as an elected member of CPI, which is part of LDF coalition. Munnar Grama Panchayat is having a total strength of 21 elected members. Out of which, 11 members belong to INC, 8 members belong to CPI and 2 members belong to CPI (M)

