

**BEFORE THE KERALA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

**PRESENT: SHRI. A. SHAJAHAN,  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

**Tuesday, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024**

**O.P. No. 22 of 2022**

**Petitioner**

: Shiju P. Kuruvila,  
S/o. M.K. Kuruvila,  
Peroor House,  
Puramattom P.O.,  
Pathanamthitta.

(Member, Ward No.13,  
Puramattom Grama Panchayat)

**(By Adv. V.S. Sunil Kumar)**

**Respondent**

: Soumya Vijayan  
D/o. Vijayan,  
Vadakethattu House,  
Paduthodu P.O., Vennikulam,  
Pathanamthitta - 689 544.

(Member, Ward No.5,  
Puramattom Grama Panchayat)

**(By Adv. E. Sulfickar)**





**ORDER**

This is a petition filed under section 4 of the Kerala Local Authorities (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999 for declaring that the respondent committed defection and hence disqualified to continue as member of Puramattom Grama Panchayat and also for declaring her as disqualified to contest as a candidate in any election to the local authorities for a period of six years.

2. Petitioner's case in brief is as below:- The petitioner and respondent are elected members of ward No. 13 and 5 respectively of Puramattom Grama Panchayat in the General Election to local authority held in 2020. Petitioner was elected as a candidate of CPI (M). Respondent was elected as an independent candidate supported by CPI (M). After the election respondent filed a sworn declaration before the Secretary of the Panchayat stating that she has contested election as an independent candidate with the support of CPI (M) and same was duly recorded in the Register showing the party affiliation of members by the Secretary. Later respondent was elected as President of the panchayat with the support of LDF members of the panchayat.
3. However the respondent took hostile attitude towards the LDF and CPI (M) and started violating the directions and whips issued by the parliamentary party leader of LDF and the political leadership of CPI (M). Meanwhile election to the post of Vice President was scheduled to be held on 25.07.2022. CPI (M) fielded Smt. Sosamma Thomas as a candidate for the post of Vice President. On 23.07.2022, the Pathanamthitta District Secretary of CPI (M) issued whip to the respondent to vote in favour of Smt. Sosamma Thomas.

