

**BEFORE THE UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC SERVICES TRIBUNAL
AT DEHRADUN**

Present: Hon'ble Mr. Justice U.C. Dhyani

----- Chairman

Hon'ble Mr. A.S. Rawat

-----Vice Chairman (A)

Claim Petition No. 147/DB/2024

Sri Eshwar Ling, Veereshwar Pujari, Kedarnath and Subordinate
Temples.

.....Petitioner

versus

1. Secretary, Dharmasva, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Dehradun,
Uttarakhand.
2. CEO, Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC),
Joshimath, Uttarakhand.
3. Executive Officer, Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee
(BKTC), Ukhimath, Uttarakhand.

.....Respondents

Present: Sri Abhishek Chamoli, Advocate, for the Petitioner
Sri V.P. Devrani, A.P.O. for the Respondent No. 1
No notice issued to respondents no. 2 and 3

Judgement

Dated: 23rd October, 2024

Justice U.C. Dhyani (Oral)

By means of present claim petition, petitioner seeks
following reliefs:

“(i) To issue a direction or order directing the respondents to
appoint the claimant on the post of Pujari at Sri Vishwanath Temple,
Guptkashi, as per the committee resolution dated 24.02.2024 with
all associated rights and privileges to which he is eligible under
Section 15(5) of the Act and tradition.

(ii) To award the cost of the petition.

(iii) To grant any other relief that this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice and equity."

2. As per the petition, the petitioner is presently serving as Veereshwar Pujari in Sri Kedarnath and its subordinate temples namely Sri Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath; Sri Vishwanath Temple, Guptakashi; and Sri Madmaheshwar Temple.

2.1 According to the petitioner, he was initiated as a disciple of Sri Rawal Ji, Kedarnath, which qualifies him for higher priestly positions under the ancient traditions of Sri Kedarnath Temple. The same was communicated to respondent no. 3 in a letter dated 12.08.2016 requesting him to appoint the petitioner as a Veereshwar Pujari. Copy of such letter has been enclosed as Annexure No. 3 with the petition.

2.2 Further, *vide* letter dated 15.08.2016, five head priests, all of whom are Veershaiva Jangam from South India, communicated to respondent no. 3 for the urgent need for an additional priest at Sri Kedarnath Adhishthan.

2.3 Petitioner moved a representation on 16.08.2024 (copy Annexure: A1) to the Chief Executive Officer, Sri Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee, which, according to learned Counsel for the petitioner, has not been replied to so far.

3. Petitioner has filed affidavit in support of his petition. Relevant documents have been filed with the petition.

4. Learned Counsel for the petitioner prayed that respondents no. 2 and 3 may kindly be directed to decide the representation of the petitioner by a reasoned and speaking order, as quickly as possible, as per law.

5. Sri V.P. Devrani, learned A.P.O., who is representing respondent no. 1, feels that the innocuous prayer of the petitioner should be accepted.

6. Considering the facts which have been noted above, the claim petition is disposed of, at the admission stage, with the consent of learned Counsel for the parties, by directing respondents no. 2 and 3 to decide the representation of the petitioner by a reasoned and speaking order, as expeditiously as possible, without unreasonable delay, on presentation of certified copy of this order along with documents in support thereof.

7. Rival contentions are left open.

(A.S. RAWAT)
VICE CHAIRMAN (A)

(JUSTICE U.C.DHYANI)
CHAIRMAN

DATE: 23rd October, 2024
DEHRADUN
RS