

NOT OFFICIAL TRANSLATION FROM ORDER IN TAMIL

Proceedings of the District Registrar, South Chennai and Registrar of Societies

* * *

Before: Ms. P. V. Gita, M.A., M.Phil.

Number: 11825/E2/2015

Date: March 2, 2018

Subject: Society – The Theosophical Society – Reg No. 02/1905 – Final Order pursuant to the complaints and enquiries thereof.

Ref:

1. Registrar General Letter No. 26193/I1/2015 dated July 27, 2015
2. Mr. S. Ramu's Petition of June 11, 2015 and November 25, 2015.
3. This office letter No 11825/E2/2015 dated September 23, 2015 and November 16, 2015.
4. Explanation of October 28, 2015 given by the Secretary of the Society
5. Registrar General letter No. 15433/I1/2015 dated February 2, 2018.
6. Registrar General letter No. 14684/E1/2016 dated February 23, 2018.
7. Government letter No. 175/M1/2018-1 dated January 23, 2018 enclosing Mr. Kesiyaju Krishna Phani, Hyderabad petition dated November 11, 2017.

* * *

ORDER

The subject The Theosophical Society is registered in this District, Registration Number 02/1905 as a Society. The letter of Registrar General referenced (1) had attachment of complaints against the Society by Mr. Ramu referred to (2) above and Mr. Kesiraju Krishna Phani referred to

This office based on the complaint (2) dated June 11, 2015 from Mr. Ramu, this office wrote letter (3) cited above dated September 23, 2015 to the Society asking for explanation and the response (4) was received from the Society.

Society's response was in turn communicated to complainant by letter dated November 16, 2015 reference (3). Complainant responded that the response of the Society was unsatisfactory via letter (2) dated November 25, 2015. Since there was a pending law suit by complainant in Chennai City Civil Court O.S. No.1654/2016, the matter was kept pending waiting for the outcome of that case.

At this time, Government letter (7) along with Mr. Kesiraju Krishna Phani's complaint of June 11, 2017 was received. The letter (6) from Registrar General requested that due to continued complaints against the Society, without interfering with the ongoing law suits, investigation be carried out and results announced.

On the basis of complaints made on the Society, the following order is passed on February 28, 2018.

The limit on the term of office of the management, as per Societies Registration Act of 1975 is 3 years. However, the Society is functioning with a term of 7 years for the President, 3 years for General Council Members, and 1 year for Executive Committee Members. The President is elected for a period of 7 years and is functioning in contravention of the Societies Registration Act.

For the above contravention, the Secretary of the Society explained that there are 26,000 members in 70 countries. Since it is not practical to conduct the election every three years, the election is held once in seven years. Society has submitted a request to the Registrar General to change the office period from 3 to 7 years under Sec 15(4) of Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975.

Complaint states that the General Council Members are acting as General Body of members. In response, the officers of the Society stated that with 26,000 members in 70 countries, it was not feasible to have a General Body meeting, the elected General Council is functioning as such and as per the rules of the Society.

Executive Committee Members are appointed by General Council as specified in Rule 14 of the Society.

Complaint alleged that the Society has investments in foreign countries. Society officers stated that all the moneys contributed to the Society are in the banks in India and the Society is run using the interest earned on them.

Complaint alleged that Olcott Education Society is functioning within the premises of the Society and mismanagement is ongoing. Society administration stated that Olcott Education Society is independent of The Theosophical Society and space has been provided to the Olcott Society to provide free education to children and The Theosophical Society does not receive any income from it.

Complaint stated that qualifications should be specified for the office-bearers. Due to lack of information on this matter, no contraventions could be ascertained.

Complaint stated that trees are indiscriminately felled and dairy cows were sold. The

Society responded that in 2015 due to natural causes, many trees were damaged and now 750 saplings have been planted and are growing. In regard to the cows, due to increase in the size of herd, Society did not have the manpower to manage them and hence they were donated to Goshalas. On this no contraventions could be ascertained.

Complaint states that all records are not available for access to members. Enquiry with Society administrators disclosed that all the records are kept in the office and any member can access them with permission.

The President of the Society can, as per the Act can hold office only for three years. Only the Government has the authority to act on the request of the Society to change the term to seven years. Until the Government approves 7 year term, the President of the Society can hold the office only for three years.

Signed:...
Registrar of Societies

South Chennai