Institute of Human Resources Development
Chackai, Thiruvananthapuram-24

PROCEEDINGS

IHRD – Model Engineering College Ernakulam – Disciplinary action against Dr. Vinu Thomas, Professor & Smt. Anila K S, Librarian Grade I – conduct of formal inquiry- appointment of Inquiry Officer- Dr. Rajesh V G, Dean, Model Engineering College, Ernakulam - Orders issued.

No. HRD /691/2024/HRD - EB3 **Dated, 24-10-2025**

Read: - 1. Memo of Charges and Statement of Allegations No. IHRD/691/2024- PA1, dated 24.09.2024, against Dr. Vinu Thomas, Professor & Principal (in-charge) of Model Engineering College, Ernakulam and Smt. Anila K.S, Librarian Grade I

2. Rely received from Smt. Anila K S, Librarian Grade I
3. G.O (Rt) No. 178/2025/HEDN dated 06.02.2025
4. Liability Notice No. IHRD/1620/2023-Fin.B3 dated 12.05.2025
5. Government letter No. J1/439/2024/HEDN dated 21.07.2025
6. Government letter No. J1/439/2024-HEDN dated 06.06.2025.
7. This office letter of even No. dated 06.08.2025 to the Government

ORDER

Dr. Vinu Thomas, Professor, while holding charge of the Principal, Model Engineering College Ernakulam, have committed the severe offense of facilitating swindling away of public money to the tune of lakhs of Rupees belonging to the Parents' and Teachers' Association (PTA) of Model Engineering College, Ernakulam run by IHRD, in connivance with a fake company named **Society of E-Governance Digitization Data Centre (SEGDC),** based in Ernakulam, in the guise of Digitization of College Library and committed the severe supervisory lapse of facilitating large scale misappropriation of the fund belonging to Parents' & Teachers' Association (PTA) of Model Engineering College Ernakulam during the period of 2021-22. His actions have resulted in the siphoning of ₹4,22,450/- from the PTA Fund of the College, ₹2,97,800/- receivable by the College from the Central Government as grant for the project.

bill or invoice of purchase. The loss sustained by the College also carries interest at 18% per annum as prescribed in the *Kerala Financial Code.*

A cheque for ₹4,22,450/- was issued to the company without executing a supporting agreement and without receipt of any quid pro quo service to the College. He also failed to obtain sanction from IHRD for the implementation of such a project. His act of conniving with a fake company to siphon public funds constitutes *misappropriation of public money, dereliction of duty,* and *supervisory negligence*, warranting disciplinary proceedings against him.

Smt. Anila K. S. served as Librarian Grade I at Model Engineering College, Ernakulam, during the said period. Accordingly, Dr. Vinu Thomas and Smt. Anila K. S. were issued *Memos of Charges* for allegations of corruption under Rule 15 of the *Kerala Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1960*, as per the reference read as first paper above. They were instructed to submit a written statement of defence, if any, within 15 days from the date of receipt of the Memos of Charges. The delinquent officer, Dr. Vinu Thomas, failed to submit his written statement of defence within the specified time. Therefore, the matter will be proceeded with on the presumption that he has no explanation to offer. Smt. Anila K. S., Librarian Grade I, submitted her written statement of defence vide reference second cited; however, the same was found unsatisfactory.

Meanwhile, the allegations of corruption against Dr. Vinu Thomas, former Principal-in-Charge, Model Engineering College, Ernakulam (now on deputation as Dean(Academic) , A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University), and Smt. Anila K. S., Librarian Grade I of the College, were brought to the notice of the Government, recommending a detailed inquiry by the *Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB)* based on the findings of an in-house preliminary inquiry. Since parties outside the jurisdiction of IHRD were involved, an inquiry by the VACB was suggested. However, despite prima facie evidence substantiating the allegations, instead of ordering a VACB investigation, the Government appointed a Joint Secretary, Higher Education Department, as the Inquiry Officer to inquire into the allegations of corruption involved in the project, as per the Government Order cited third above.

The inquiry conducted by the inquiry officer appointed by the Government was not impartial and was vitiated by prejudice an attempt, as it were, to "trim the toes to fit the boots." However, as per the Government letter cited

sixth under reference, all parties involved in the case, including the accused, were called for a hearing on 19.06.2025 by the Inquiry Officer except the *de facto* complainant (Director, IHRD). The Inquiry Officer thus acted in a partisan manner, seemingly to shield the accused from the legitimate questions of IHRD, by denying natural justice to the *de facto* complainant through the omission of an opportunity to cross-examine the defence and submit depositions.

The finding of the Inquiry Officer that neither the Government nor IHRD sustained any loss is contrary to fact. Before arriving at such a premature conclusion, it was incumbent upon him to consider the version of IHRD to determine whether any loss was sustained. As per the *Liability Notice*, issued vide reference 5th cited above, against Dr. Vinu Thomas, former Principal-in-charge of MEC, who seemingly orchestrated the project and authorized payment without a supporting project or agreement. The Internal Audit Wing of IHRD has estimated the loss to the PTA Fund of MEC, Ernakulam, at ₹10,05,872/- The PTA Fund of educational institutions owned by the Government of Kerala constitutes *public money* as defined under the principles of financial propriety in the *Kerala Financial Code* and is, therefore, subject to internal audit.

As per the terms of the project proposal, only 50% of the estimated amount was to be paid in advance, with the balance payable after satisfactory completion of digitization. However, the entire estimated amount was paid in advance, even before signing an agreement. The project was to be completed within five months, i.e., on or before 29.07.2021. It has now been five years since the expiry of the stipulated period, and the library digitization remains incomplete. Even the interest on the advance paid could have been computed, at the very least. It is, therefore, perplexing how the Inquiry Officer arrived at such an unfounded inference.

As resolved by the 8th Meeting of the Governing Body of IHRD held on 15.03.1996, rules for disciplinary proceedings against the regular employees of IHRD are governed by the Kerala Civil Service (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1960, as per which the Disciplinary Powers for taking action against erring officers under IHRD are vested with the Executive Committee/Director and Appellate Powers are vested with the Governing Body of IHRD. No Appellate Powers are currently vested with the Government as regards disciplinary proceedings against IHRD employees. Therefore, the Inquiry Officer's attempt to vindicate the delinquent officers in advance can only be disagreed. Despite that the undersigned was the de facto complainant in the case, no copy of the Inquiry

Report has so far been served to IHRD. In the circumstances, the Government has been requested to set aside the *ex parte* findings of the Inquiry Officer and reconsider the decision communicated vide reference seventh cited.

In these circumstances, it has been decided to proceed with the disciplinary action initiated against Dr. Vinu Thomas and Smt. Anila K. S and Dr. Rajesh V G, Dean, Model Engineering College, Ernakulam is appointed as the inquiry officer to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of corruption against Dr. Vinu Thomas and Smt. Anila K. S and to submit a detailed report within two weeks positively.

Dr. V A Arun Kumar
DIRECTOR

To

1. Dr. Rajesh V G, Dean, Model Engineering College, Ernakulam
2. Dr. Vinu Thomas, Professor,(now on deputation as Dean (Academic) , A P J Abdul Kalam Technological University)
3. Smt. Anila K S, Librarian Grade I
4. The Principal, Model Engineering College, Ernakulam
5. The Principal, College of Engineering, Cherthala
6. Administrative Officer
7. Finance Officer
8. Personal Assistant to Director
9. SF/OC