

**HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA**  
**AT SHILLONG**

PIL No. 15 of 2018

Date of order: 10.07.2023

A.H. Hazarika

vs

State of Meghalaya & ors

**Coram:**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge**

**Appearance:**

For the Petitioner : In person

For the Respondents : Mr R. Gurung, GA with  
Ms S. Shyam, GA  
Ms A. Thungwa, GA  
Mr R. Debnath, CGC

The petitioner complains that despite the previous order requiring immediate repair work to be undertaken for the 9 km stretch between km 33 and km 41, nothing concrete may have been done and potholes have developed which seriously affect movement of the traffic along the stretch.

2. As far as the 67 to 100 km stretch of the AMPT Road is concerned, even though the previous order noticed that the levelling had been completed, the petitioner says that there is massive water-logging along large stretches which have completely eroded the blacktop and make it difficult for trucks and almost impossible for smaller vehicles to navigate such stretches.

3. The AMPT Road is an arterial road of great importance already and with the bridge across the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Phulbari scheduled to be completed in the next three or four years, Phulbari will

develop as a major trading hub and roads to and from Phulbari will have to endure much greater traffic than can be imagined at present.

4. For such purpose, the AMPT Road has to be in top condition without excuses such as rain being cited to explain away its pitiable condition. This matter has lingered for a considerable period and though some progress was made on some stretches, it does not appear that the work undertaken has any lasting value. The State PWD (Roads) would do well to look into the matter and instead of spending over and over again for patch work or repair work, undertake a complete overhauling of the road, whether or not in conjunction with the National Highways Authority of India so that the road can cater to the increased pressure upon the Dhubri to Phulbari bridge over the Brahmaputra being completed.

5. The State PWD (Roads) should consult with NHAI or its arm, the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, and, possibly, seek funds from the North Eastern Council for the strengthening, widening and year-round maintenance of the AMPT Road as a part of the extension of the Dhubri to Phulbari flyover.

6. This does not imply that the outstanding work or the patch work that is immediately required should be ignored. It is a matter of concern that despite it being well known that Meghalaya is one of the wettest places in the world, the same excuse of rain is given by the State or other authorities to justify the poor conditions of some of the roads. Indeed, there are several other roads in the State which can endure the monsoon and remain unaffected by the heavy rains.

7. Since the AMPT Road is one of the key roads linking the western part of the State to the rest of the State and even other parts of

the country, it requires special attention and it is hoped that the State PWD (Roads) will deal with the matter with the requisite seriousness.

8. A report as to the measures taken, including how the road should be some four or five years from today, should be filed by the State when the matter appears next six weeks hence. In the meantime, the potholes along the stretches should be filled up temporarily so as to make the road more accessible to lesser vehicles.

9. The State says that for the 33 km to 41 km stretch, three contractors have been engaged and they have undertaken to continue continuous repair work to ensure that such stretch is navigable during the monsoon months.

10. List on August 21, 2023.

**(W. Diengdoh)**  
**Judge**

**(Sanjib Banerjee)**  
**Chief Justice**

Meghalaya  
10.07.2023  
"Sylvana PS"

