

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**CIVIL APPEAL NO. OF 2025**  
(Arising out of SLP (Civil) No.23304 of 2025)

**VENUGOPALAN**

**...APPELLANT(S)**

**VERSUS**

**ASHKAR AND OTHERS**

**...RESPONDENT(S)**

**ORDER**

Leave Granted

2. The instant appeal, filed by the Claimant, arises out of the judgment and order dated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 passed by the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam in MACA No. 407 of 2015.
3. The accident is not in dispute. On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2007 while travelling from Panhal to Tirur, the claimant's car was dashed into, at a high speed by the first respondent consequent to which the claimant suffered serious injuries.
4. He filed a claim petition before the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Tirur being O.P. (MAC) No. 1069/2011 worth Rs.12,00,000/-. Having considered the evidence on record the

Tribunal awarded Rs.1,58,000/- along with 9% interest from the date of the petition, in terms of order dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013.

5. The High Court, on appeal, enhanced the compensation under various heads such as pain and suffering, transportation expenses, compensation for disfiguration etc. to a total of Rs. 2,00,250/- with 7% interest from the date of the petition.

6. The accident is of the year 2007. Today we are at the end of 2025. A total of 18 years have passed since the accident and the claimant is still, after passage of such a large amount of time having to agitate his grievance for appropriate compensation. We also notice that it took a total of ten years for the High Court to decide the appeal. That in itself is worrisome, be whatever the reason therefor.

7. We are of the view that compensation as awarded by the High Court is somewhat insufficient particularly when the appellant has suffered a deformity in his right arm. During the course of hearing we expressed such a view. The learned counsel across the bar appear to us, to agree with the same. As such, without going into the merits the amount awarded under each head, and with an intent to finally put a quietus to the appellant's grievance, we award a lump sum compensation of Rs.4,00,000/- in the facts of this case.

8. If it is that any of the amount as awarded by the High Court stands paid by the respondent-Insurer, the same would be

deducted and whatever remains, shall be forthwith deposited in the bank account of the appellant-claimant, of which the details shall be provided by the learned counsel for the appellant to the learned counsel for the respondent within a week from today. The amount in question shall be accompanied by 7% per annum interest from the date of the filing of the appeal before the Tribunal and will be deposited within 8 weeks.

9. The appeal is allowed, as aforesaid.

No costs. Pending application(s), if any shall stand disposed of.

..... J.  
(SANJAY KAROL)

..... J.  
(NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR SINGH)

**New Delhi**  
**November 28, 2025**