



W.P.(MD)No.29846 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 15.12.2023

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CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR

and

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

W.P.(MD)No.29846 of 2023

D.Senthil Kumar

: Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Commissioner,

Hindu Religious and Endowment Department,

Fort St. George,

Chennai – 600 009.

2.The Joint Commissioner,

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Thirukoil,

Palani,

Dindigul District.

: Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to consider the petitioner's representation dated 10.10.2023 and issue receipt for the sale of Panchamirtham at Prasada Stall made through Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thirukovil, Palani, under the control of the 2nd respondent within the period stipulated by this Court.



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For Petitioner : Mr.G.Radhakrishnan
For Respondent No.1 : Mr.P.Thilak Kumar
Government Pleader
For Respondent No.2 : Mr.M.Muthu Geethayan
Standing Counsel

O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by M.SUNDAR, J.]

Captioned 'Writ Petition' [hereinafter 'WP' for the sake of brevity] has been filed in this Court on 12.12.2023.

2.Short facts are that PIL petitioner is concerned for Panjamirtham which is a 'Prasatham' [hereinafter 'said prasatham' for the sake of convenience] distributed / sold in 'Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swami Thirukovil, Palani, Dindigul District' [hereinafter 'said temple' for the sake of convenience and clarity]; that the concern of PIL petitioner is that said prasatham is being sold in ten different stalls / counters on ordinary days and in 13 different stalls / counters on auspicious days; that the specific concern of PIL petitioner is that receipts are not being given for the said prasatham that is being sold in stalls / counters.

3.Issue notice.



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4.Mr.P.Thilak Kumar, learned State Government Pleader accepts notice for the first respondent.

5.As regards second respondent, Mr.G.Radhakrishnan, learned Counsel for PIL petitioner submits that he has referred to the Executive Officer of said temple. To be noted, Executive Officer of said temple is in the cadre of Joint Commissioner, considering the annual income of said temple. This has become necessary to mention, as there is a jurisdictional Joint Commissioner who has the administrative powers *qua* all temples in Dindigul. Therefore, we treat the second respondent as Executive Officer of said temple in the cadre of Joint Commissioner in the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Mr.M.Muthu Geethayan, learned Standing Counsel accepts notice for the second respondent.

6.The respondents submit that receipts are being issued and no complaints have been received thus far and a short note together with relevant scanned images have been placed before us and a scanned reproduction of the same is as follows:



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Arulmighu Dhandayuthapani Swami Temple, Palani

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1. The temple is issuing ITMS (Integrated Temple Management Service) Computerised system tickets for the services like Thangaratham, Panjamirtham Sales, Kaalapojai Tickets, Annadhanam Donation, Rs.100 and Rs.10 Dharshan Tickets, Free Tonsuring services, ..etc to the devotees. The same has been followed not only by this temple but also at the other temples in Tamilnadu that are under the purview of this department.
2. There are about 6 places sales points have been made in the hill temple, 11 sales points around griveethi, 1 sale point in Dhandapni Nilayam and 1 sale point at Palani Bus Stand has been made for the better service of the devotees.
3. For the better administration and providing services to the devotees 2 Superintendents were deputed for the sales of panchamirtham to the devotees.
4. Complaint book and Whatsapp number have been provided for the devotees to share their experience and complaints. Whatsapp number is 94896 68082 Phone Number is 04545241293 Toll Free Number 1800 425 9925.



5. Display boards in tamil, Malayalam, English regarding the price of panchamirtham are placed by the temple in all the sales points.





7. Till now no complaint from the devotees have been received by the temple administration regarding the sale of panchamirtham at higher price. Actually there is no profit to the temple and the actual cost only is fixed as the price of Panchamirtham Jars and tins.

9. ITMS Computerized system tickets are being issued to the devotees.



10. If the ITMS server is down or shut down for maintenance, sales receipt not only for panchamirtham but also for the other services cannot be issued. At that time only, the sale receipt cannot be issued due to technical problem. Also if heavy crowd witnesses in a sale point, sales men create the receipts as soon as the maintenance of server is completed and the crowd becomes decreased. Daily account is maintained for panchamirtham sales and is viewed by all officials as late night.

11. Each and every sale of the panchamirtham will be accounted in the ITMS by the temple and sale of the pancharmirthma are regularly monitored by the temple officials. Last one month ITMS sale of pancharmirthma are enclosed.



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7.Learned Counsel for PIL petitioner has been favoured with a copy of the above.

8.In the light of the narrative thus far, it comes to light that receipts are being issued. Learned Counsel for respondents submit that this practice which is in vogue will continue. This by itself is good enough to drop the curtains on the captioned matter capturing what unfurled in the hearing today and capturing the stated position of the respondents. We took up the main writ petition [considering the limited scope of the writ petition] and the same is disposed of as closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

[M.S.,J.] & [R.S.V.,J.]

15.12.2023

Neutral Citation : Yes/No

Index : Yes/No

Internet : Yes/No

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To

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2.The Joint Commissioner,
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M.SUNDAR, J.
and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.

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ORDER MADE IN
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15.12.2023