



W.P.(MD) No.24909 of 2018

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED : 03.12.2025

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THE HONOURABLE **DR.JUSTICE G. JAYACHANDRAN**
AND
THE HONOURABLE **MR.JUSTICE K.K. RAMAKRISHNAN**

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Yagappa Nagar West Residents Welfare
Association through its President
Thiru A.Irulandy,
S/o.E.Angumuthu,
D.No.1295-1, 1st Street,
Yagappa Nagar, Madurai – 625 020.

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The Principal Secretary to
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Municipal Administration & Water Supply,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The Principal Secretary to
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public Works Department,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
- 3.The Engineer in Chief,
Water Resources Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
PWD Complex, Chennai - 600 005.
- 4.The District Collector,
O/o.The Collectorate,
Madurai - 625 020.



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5.The Commissioner,
Madurai Corporation,
Anna Maligai, Madurai - 625 002.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition (Public Interest Litigation) filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to pass suitable orders to implement the deepening of all the tanks such as Vandiyur Tank, Sellur Tank, Madakulam Tank, Thenkal Tank, Koothiar Kundu Tank, Periyakulam Tank etc. situated in and around Madurai City Municipal Corporation limit to atleast 3 meters depth.

For Petitioner : Mr.N.S.Ponnaiah

For R1 to R4 : Mr.P.Thilakkumar
Government Pleader

For R5 : No appearance

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by **DR.G.JAYACHANDRAN, J.**]

The residents of Yagappa Nagar West, through their President, have filed this Public Interest Litigation seeking a suitable direction to the Government to desilt and deepen the water bodies in and around the Madurai city limits. In this Writ Petition, six major water bodies have



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been mentioned which require immediate attention for desilting and deepening, so as to store water for public use and also to increase the groundwater level.

2. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that this Writ Petition was filed in the year 2018 in the interest of the general public, when there was an acute shortage of drinking water despite Madurai city being surrounded by six important water bodies, namely Vandiyur Tank, Sellur Tank, Madakulam Tank, Thenkal Tank, Koothiyarkundu Tank and Periyakulam Tank.

3. The learned Government Pleader for the first to fourth respondents submits that when this Writ Petition is pending, the desilting project was undertaken in respect of Vandiyur Tank, Thenkal Tank, Koothiyarkundu Tank, Sellur Tank and Madakulam Tank; that after completion of the desilting and strengthening of the bund, all the tanks are as on date with full capacity due to copious rainfall; and that the details of the desilting project and the current status have been conveyed by the Assistant Executive Engineer, Periyar Vaigai Water Division, Madurai.



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4. Considering the submissions and the action taken regarding the strengthening of the tank bunds and desilting of the tanks, we are of the view that a one-time measure of desilting may not be adequate and that periodic desilting of all tanks should be made mandatory in the P.W.D. manuals. During the dry season, all these tanks must be desilted and the bunds must be strengthened.

5. With the above observations and directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs.

[G.J., J.] & [K.K.R.K., J.]

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Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

Neutral Citation : Yes / No

Speaking Order / Non-Speaking Order

Copy To:

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Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

2.The Principal Secretary.
Public Works Department,



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