

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 13-07-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE C.V. KARTHIKEYAN

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

WP(MD) No. 15180 of 2026

Thirumurugan

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government
Home Department, Fort St.George, Chennai
600009.
2. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600009
3. The Secretary to Government,
Finance Department, Fort St.George, Chennai
600009
4. The Commissioner of Revenue Administration
and Disaster Management,
Ezhilagam, Chepauk, Chennai 600005
5. The Director of Fisheries,
Directorate of Fisheries, Integrated Animal
Husbandry and Fisheries Department Complex,
Nandanam, Chennai 600035
6. The Commissioner of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Integrated Animal Husbandry and
Fisheries Department Complex, Nandanam,
Chennai 600035



WEB COPY

7. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Kanniyakumari District
Nagercoil 629 001
8. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli 627 009
9. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Thoothukudi District,
Thoothukudi 628 101
10. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Ramanathapuram District,
Ramanathapuram 623 503
11. The District Collector,
Collectorate office, Pudukkottai District,
Pudukkottai 622001
12. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Thanjavur District,
Thanjavur-613 010
13. The District Collector,
Collectorate office, Nagapattinam District,
Nagapattinam 611003
14. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office,
Mayiladuthurai District,
Mayiladuthurai 609 001
15. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office,
Tiruvarur District,
Tiruvarur 610004
16. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office, Cuddalore District,
Cuddalore 607 001



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17. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office,
Villupuram District,
Villupuram 605602

18. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office,
Chengalpattu District,
Chengalpattu 603001

19. The District Collector,
Collectorate Office,
Tiruvallur District,
Tiruvallur 602 001

20. The District Collector,
Collectorate office, Chennai District,
Chennai 600001

21. The Joint Director/Deputy Director of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Kanyakumari District,
Nagercoil 629 001

22. The Joint Director/deputy Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Tirunelveli District,
Tirunelveli 627009

23. The Joint Director/deputy Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Thoothukudi District,
Thoothukudi 628 001.

24. The Joint Director/deputy Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Ramanathapuram District,
Thoothukudi 623 503.

25. The Assistant Director of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Colachel Fishing Harbour, Colachel,
Kanyakumari District 629251.



26. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Thengaipattinam Fishing Harbour,
Thengaipattinam,
Kanyakumari District 629 173.
27. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Thoothukudi Fishing Harbour,
Thengaipattinam, Thoothukudi District 628 001
28. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Ramanathapuram Fishing Harbour,
Ramanathapuram District 623503.
29. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Nagapattinam Fishing Harbour,
Nagapattinam District 611001.
30. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Cuddalore Fishing Harbour,
Cuddalore District 607 003.
31. The Assistant Director Of Fisheries,
Department of Fisheries and Fishermen
Welfare, Chennai Fishing Harbour, Kasimedu,
Chennai 600013.

..Respondent(s)

Writ Petition, filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this court to issue a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents 1-2 to enhance the fishing ban period relief compensation payable to marine fishermen in Tamil Nadu during the annual statutory fishing ban periods including the East Coast Fishing ban period 15.04.2026 to 14.06.2026 and the west coast fishing ban period applicable to Arabian Sea coastal fisherman of Kanyakumari District



from 01.06.2026 to 31.07.2026 and consequently direct the respondents to provide a minimum relief assistance of Rs.20,000/- per month to every registered marine fisherman and fishermen family in Tamil Nadu by taking into consideration the relief assistance already implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.W.Cleetus

For Respondent(s): Mr.S.I.Muthiah.
Counsel for State

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by C.V.Karthikeyan J.)

This writ petition is filed in the nature of a mandamus seeking a direction against the first and second respondents, Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department and the Principal Secretary to Government, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department to enhance the compensation payable to Marine Fishermen during the fishing ban from 15.04.2026 to 14.06.2026 in East Coast Fishing and between 01.06.2026 and 31.07.2026 in Arabian Sea Coast and direct to provide a minimum relief assistance of Rs.20,000/- per month to every registered marine fisherman and fisherman family.

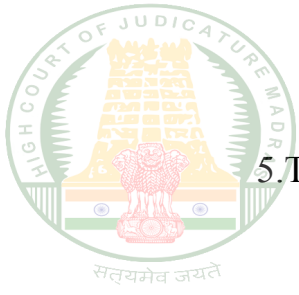
2.The petitioner is an Advocate practising before this court. But however, he espouses the cause of fishermen. It is a noble cause. He seeks enhancement of the compensation being now provided at Rs.8,000/- per month to Rs.20,000/- during the statutory ban from 15.04.2026 to 14.06.2026 in the East Coast



Fishing and between 01.06.2026 and 31.07.2026 in Arabian Sea Coast. It is contended that other States are providing higher compensation more than Rs.8000/- per month, which is being provided by the State of Tamil Nadu.

3.This is entirely a policy decision to be taken by the Government. That would also depend on the number of eligible fishermen, who have been sensitised to get registered. It will also depend on the financial capacity of the State. All these factors will have to be taken into consideration before there could be any direction issued by the Court, which cannot take upon itself to be competent enough to decide this issue. The Court can only state that an appropriate decision must be taken by the respondents with respect to the compensation payable.

4.At any rate, for the present year, the fishing ban period has ended and therefore, the decision could be taken only for the next year. The Government may take a decision to increase the compensation. They may take a decision not to increase the compensation. They may take a decision to increase the compensation to an amount lesser than Rs.20,000/-. They may also take a decision to increase the compensation to an amount higher than Rs,20,000/. It is entirely the prerogative of the Government.



5. This writ petition stands dismissed. There shall be no orders as to costs.

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(C.V.K.,J.) (R.S.V.,J.)
13-07-2026

Index : Yes

NCC : Yes

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173
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WEB COPY

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WEB COPY

WP(MD) No. 15180 of 2



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WP(MD) No. 15180 of 2026

13-07-2026