

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.R.RAMACHANDRA MENON

WEDNESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF APRIL 2015/11TH CHAITHRA, 1937

WP(C).No. 10881 of 2015 (I)

PETITIONER:

1. **JOBY MATHEW AGED 33 YEARS,
S/O.MATHAI, MANDASSERIL,
THALAYAZHAM, VAIKOM.**

BY ADV. SRI.M.J.THOMAS

RESPONDENT(S):

1. **DISTRICT COLLECTOR,
COLLECTORATE, KOTTAYAM -686 001.**
2. **THE SUB INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
VAIKOM -686 524.**
3. **ADDITIONAL SUB INSPECTOR OF POLICE,
VAIKOM, KOTTAYAM – 686 524.**
4. **THE GEOLOGIST, DEPARTMENT OF MINING AND GEOLOGY,
KOTTAYAM, OFFICE KOTTAYAM.**

R1 TO R4 BY (SR) GOVERNMENT PLEADER SRI.JOSEPH GEORGE

**THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION
ON 01-04-2015, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE
FOLLOWING:**

vmr.

APPENDIX

PETITIONER'S EXHIBITS

- EXHIBIT P1: TRUE COPY OF THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE OF VEHICLE BEARING NO.KL-02 S 6151.**
- EXHIBIT P2: TRUE COPY OF THE VALID GOODS CARRIAGE PERMIT VALID UP TO 01/03/17 OF VEHICLE BEARING NO KL-02 S 6151.**
- EXHIBIT P3: TRUE COPY OF THE VALID INSURANCE POLICY INSURED NEW INDIA INSURANCE COMPANY WHICH IS VALID UP TO 29/07/2015 OF VEHICLE BEARING NO KL -02 S 6151.**
- EXHIBIT P4: TRUE COPY OF THE SEIZURE MAZHAR PREPARED BY THE 3RD RESPONDENT.**
- EXHIBIT P5: TRUE COPY OF THE LETTER DATED 26/03/2015 ISSUED BY THE 2ND RESPONDENT TO THE 1ST RESPONDENT.**

RESPONDENTS EXHIBITS: NIL

/TRUE COPY/

P.A.TO JUDGE

vmr

P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON, J.

W.P.(C) No.10881 of 2015

Dated this the 1st day of April, 2015

JUDGMENT

Petitioner's vehicle (HGV Tipper) bearing registration No.KL-02-S-6151 has been seized by the 3rd respondent on 28.03.2015, alleging that the above vehicle was being used for transportation of 'granite powder (granite sand)'.

2. The learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is ready to compound the offence and that an opportunity might be given to get the vehicle released, after satisfying the compounding fee.

3. The issue involved in this case is, whether the petitioner, who has been proceeded against in respect of the offences under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2015 is entitled to have the offence compounded in view of the desire expressed from the part of the petitioner in this regard.

4. Heard the learned Government Pleader as well.

5. Section 23A of the 'Act' and the relevant Rules enable

the parties to have the offence compounded. The Rules specifically stipulate that any offence under the Rules can be compounded subject to the satisfaction of the maximum fine prescribed under the Rules, which is stated as Rs.5,000/-. But in respect of the transportation of sand/earth without any valid pass/sanction, it is stated as an offence under the 'Act' by virtue of the incorporation of Section 4(1A), for which separate penalty is provided under the 'Act' itself. It was in the said circumstance, that this Court has been passing various orders in similar matters enabling the concerned parties to have the interim custody of the vehicle on satisfaction of a sum of **Rs.25,000/-** and also by directing the concerned respondent to consider the application for compounding, if any.

6. A question arose before this Court as to whether the prosecution proceedings could be pursued further, once the offence is compounded in accordance with the relevant provisions. This issue has already been considered and decided by this Court in **2013 (1) KLT 600 (Digil v. Sub Inspector of Police)**, holding that, once the offence is compounded,

there cannot be any further prosecution proceedings.

7. In view of the law declared as mentioned herein before, there will be a direction to the respondents 2 and 3 to consider the application filed by the petitioner to compound the offence; and pass appropriate orders forthwith, subject to satisfaction of a sum of **Rs.25000/-** as the compounding fee. Once the offence is compounded, no prosecution proceedings shall lie against the petitioner.

The petitioner shall produce a copy of this judgment, along with a copy of this writ petition, before the respondents 2 and 3, for further steps.

The writ petition is disposed of.

**P.R. RAMACHANDRA MENON,
JUDGE**

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