

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 22.04.2015

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K. AGNIHOTRI
and
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. VENUGOPAL

W.P. No.11692 of 2015 and M.P. No.1 of 2015

C.P. Raja

Petitioner

Vs.

- 1 Corporation of Chennai
represented by its Commissioner
Ripon Buildings
Chennai 600 003
- 2 The Executive Engineer
Town Planning (Enforcement)
Corporation of Chennai
O/o Regional Joint Commissioner - South
Adyar, Chennai 600 020
- 3 Government of Tamil Nadu
represented by its Secretary to Government
Housing and Urban Development Department
Fort St. George
Chennai 600 009

Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of mandamus forbearing the respondents 1 and 2 or anybody on their behalf from initiating any action of locking and sealing and demolition with regard to the building put up at Plot Nos.A & B comprised in T.S. No.78/2 (part), Shanthi Nagar III Street, Adambakkam, Chennai 88, till the disposal of the petitioner's appeal petition submitted under Section 80-A of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act with the Government, the third respondent herein.

For petitioner Mr. R. Mohan

For RR 1 & 2 Mrs. Kaarthika Ashok
Standing Counsel

For R3 Mr. P.S. Sivashanmugasundaram
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made SATISH K. AGNIHOTRI, J.)

Mrs. Kaarthika Ashok, learned Standing Counsel, accepts notice for respondents 1 and 2 and Mr. P.S. Sivashanmugasundaram, learned Special Government Pleader, accepts notice for the third respondent. With the consent of the learned counsel for the parties, the writ petition is taken up for final disposal, at the admission stage itself.

2 This writ petition is filed seeking a writ of mandamus forbearing the respondents 1 and 2 or anybody on their behalf from initiating any coercive action of locking and sealing and demolition with regard to the building put up at Plot Nos.A & B comprised in T.S. No.78/2 (Part), Shanthi Nagar III Street, Adambakkam, Chennai-88 till the disposal of the petitioner's appeal petition submitted under Section 80-A of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 19971 (for short "the Act").

3 From a perusal of the records, it transpires that the second respondent has issued locking, sealing and demolition notice dated 18.03.2015 under Sections 56 and 57 read with Section 85 of the Act against the petitioner. Thereagainst, the petitioner has already filed an appeal under Section 80-A of the Act before the third respondent-Government on 28.03.2015, which is still pending consideration. It is further seen that along with the said appeal, the petitioner has also preferred an application for interim stay, in view of the provisions of Section 80-A(3) of the Act.

4 It was observed by this Court in many a case that if there is an application for interim relief, the authorities are expected to consider the application for interim relief, within a period of two weeks. However, in the case on hand, despite lapse of three weeks from the date of filing of the application for interim relief, no order has been passed in the said petition. Therefore, without going into the merits of the case, we are of the considered view that if an appeal is filed along with the application for interim relief, the officers are well advised to consider the application for interim relief at the earliest, preferably, within a period of two weeks, to avoid further complications.

5 Accordingly, we direct the third respondent-Government to consider the petitioner's application for interim relief as early as possible, preferably, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and also to consider and pass orders on the petitioner's appeal, on its own merits and in accordance with law, within the statutory period prescribed under the provisions of law. It is made clear that for a period of two weeks, status quo as

obtained today, in respect of the property in question, shall be maintained by both the parties.

6 The writ petition stands disposed of with the above direction and observation. No costs. Connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

cad
To

- 1 The Commissioner
Corporation of Chennai
Ripon Buildings
Chennai 600 003
- 2 The Executive Engineer
Town Planning (Enforcement)
Corporation of Chennai
O/o Regional Joint Commissioner - South
Adyar, Chennai 600 020
- 3 The Secretary to Government
Housing and Urban Development Department
Government of Tamil Nadu
Fort St. George
Chennai 600 009.

- 1 cc to Government Pleader, Sr.No22090/15
1 cc to Mr.A.Karthika Ashok ,Advocate, SR.No.21872/15
1 cc to M/s.R.Mohan ,Advocate, SR.No.21837/15

W.P. No.11692 of 2015

ca(co)
pmk.19.5.2015

WEB COPY