

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 27/7/2015

C O R A M

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K. AGNIHOTRI

and

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. VENUGOPAL

W.P. No.22396 of 2015

B. Rajendran ... Petitioner

Vs

The Revenue Divisional Officer
Dharmapuri
Dharmapuri District. ... Respondent

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of mandamus directing the respondent to issue Community Certificate to the daughters of the petitioner by name Minor S.R.Harini and Minor S.R.Nivetha respectively that they belong to Kurumans Scheduled Tribes Community based on the Scheduled Tribe Community Certificate issued in favour of the petitioner and his wife (parents), within a time frame fixed by this Court.

For petitioner ... Mr. G.Sankaran
For respondent ... Mr. R. Rajeswaran
Special Government Pleader

O R D E R

Mr. R. Rajeswaran, learned Special Government Pleader, accepts notice for the respondent. With the consent of the learned counsel on either side, the writ petition is taken up for disposal, at the admission stage itself.

2 This writ petition is filed seeking a mandamus directing the respondent to issue Community Certificate to the daughters of the petitioner by name Minor S.R.Harini and Minor S.R.Nivetha respectively that they belong to Kurumans Scheduled Tribes Community based on the Scheduled Tribe Community Certificate issued in favour of the petitioner and his wife.

3 The petitioner, claiming that he belongs to Kurumans (S.T) community, has made an application on 26th May, 2014 to the respondent, seeking issuance of such community certificate to his

daughters viz., Minor S.R.Harini and Minor S.R.Nivetha. Since no orders have been passed on the said application, he has come up with the instant writ petition seeking the aforesaid relief.

4 In the affidavit filed in support of the writ petition, the petitioner has averred that he has been issued with Scheduled Tribe community certificate dated 7th May 1986 by the then competent authority. He has also averred that his wife and his paternal uncle's son by name Raja also have been issued with Scheduled Tribe community certificate, based on the orders of the State Level Scrutiny Committee and as such, his daughters too are entitled to such certificate. However, seemingly, along with his application, the petitioner has not enclosed the aforesaid documents relied on by him in support of his claim.

5 By this petition, the petitioner is seeking a direction to the authority concerned to consider his application and issue community certificate to his daughters accordingly. We have been repeatedly observing that a community comprises not only the members of the family, but, also the members of the same group or tribe. In the case on hand, when the petitioner has been issued with community certificate to the effect that he belongs to Kurumans (S.T.) community, as a natural corollary, his daughters are also entitled to get such community status and we are at a loss to understand as to why the petitioner's application dated 26th May, 2014 has been kept pending for more than 6 months, contrary to the direction of the Supreme Court in Kumari Madhuri Patil and another vs. Additional Commissioner, Tribal Development and Others¹ and several other decisions.

6 Needless to state that if any doubt crops up in the mind of the competent authority qua the genuineness of the community certificate issued to the petitioner while considering his application for grant of the same certificate for his daughters, the only course open to the competent authority is to refer the same to the State Level Scrutiny Committee, but, not to take a contrary stand by dis-crediting the same. The said community certificate is subject to further verification by the State Level Scrutiny Committee. In other words, if the competent authority has any doubt about the genuineness of the community certificate issued to the petitioner, he has no competence to ignore the same, unless the same is set aside or modified by the higher authority, i.e., the State Level Scrutiny Committee and he can only refer the matter to the State Level Scrutiny Committee.

7 In view of the foregoing, we direct the authority concerned to consider and pass orders on the petitioner's application dated 26th May, 2014 on merits and in accordance with law, after conducting enquiry as per the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in

1 (1994) 6 SCC 241

Kumari Madhuri Patil (supra). The entire exercise shall be completed within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

8 The writ petition stands disposed of accordingly. No costs.

Sd/-
Asst.Registrar (CS IV)

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

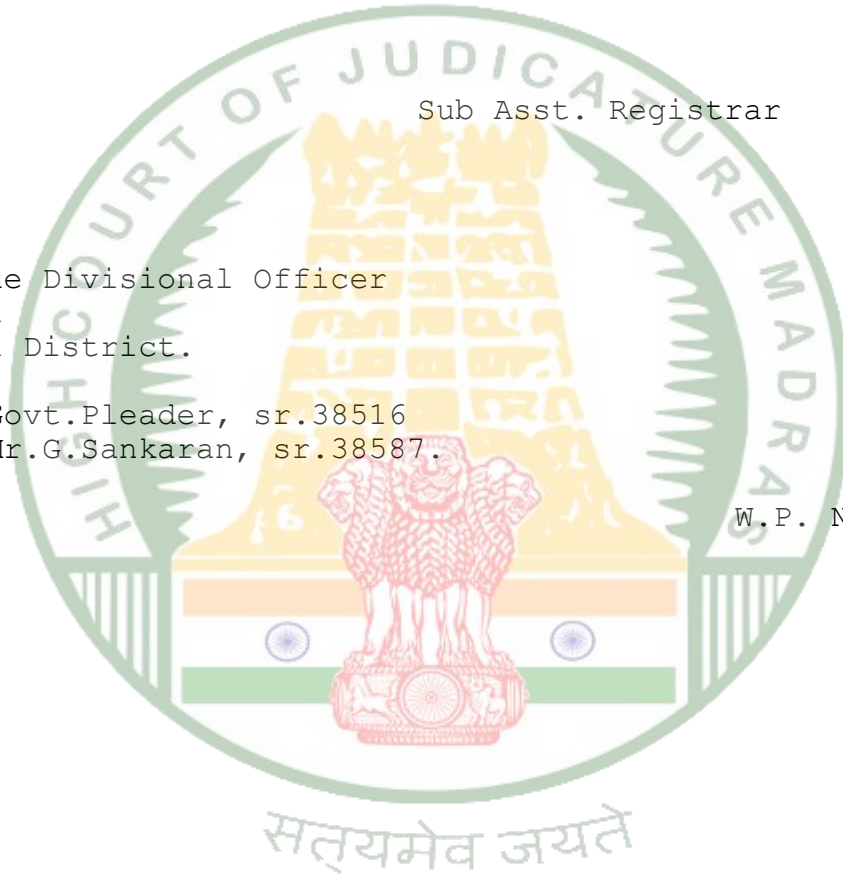
mvs.

To
The Revenue Divisional Officer
Dharmapuri
Dharmapuri District.

+1 cc to Govt.Pleader, sr.38516
+1 cc to Mr.G.Sankaran, sr.38587.

W.P. No.22396 of 2015

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