

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29.04.2016

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SATISH K.AGNIHOTRI
and
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE V. BHARATHIDASAN

W.P. No.16549 of 2016 and W.M.P. No.14291 of 2016

The Church at Jehovah Shamma
represented by its Authorised Signatory
No.4, Ritherdon Road III Lane (Church Lane)
Vepery, Chennai 600 007

Petitioner

vs.

- 1 The Corporation of Chennai
represented by its Commissioner
Ripon Building, Chennai 600 003
- 2 The Executive Engineer
Town Planning (Enforcement)
O/o the Regional Deputy Commissioner (North)
Corporation of Chennai
Basin Bridge Road, Chennai 600 021
- 3 The 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 coercive action of locking and sealing and demolition with regard to the building put up at No.4, Ritherdon Road III Lane (Church Lane), Vepery, Chennai 600 007, pending determination of the revision petition submitted by the petitioner under Section 80-A and 80-A(3) of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act dated 21.04.2016.

For petitioner Mr. R. Mohan

For RR 1 & 2 Mr. A. Nagarajan, Standing Counsel

For R3 Mrs. A. Srijayanthi
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

(delivered by SATISH K.AGNIHOTRI, J.)

Mr. A. Nagarajan, learned Standing Counsel, accepts notice for respondents 1 and 2. Mrs. A. Srijayanthi, learned Special Government Pleader, accepts notice for the third respondent. With consent, 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 No.4, Ritherdon Road III Lane (Church Lane), Vepery, Chennai 600 007, pending determination of the revision petition (sic) application submitted by the petitioner under Section 80-A and also interim application under Section 80-A(3) of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971 (for brevity "the Act") by the third respondent.

3 From a perusal of the records, it is seen that the Corporation of Chennai, has issued a locking, sealing and demolition notice on 05 April 2016 under Section 57 read with Section 85 of the Act against the petitioner. Thereagainst, the petitioner has preferred an application before the third respondent under Section 80-A of the Act on 21 April 2016, which is under consideration. It is further seen that along with the said application, the petitioner has also filed an application for interim stay in terms of the provisions of Section 80-A(3) of the Act.

4 Without going into the merits of the case, we are of the considered view that if an application, as aforesaid, is filed along with an 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 to consider the petitioner's application for interim relief as early as possible, preferably within a period of two weeks and also to consider the petitioner's main application within the statutory period prescribed under the provisions of law, on its own merits and in accordance with law, in the light of the order passed by a Division Bench of this Court in Lalithkumar C. Soni Vs. Government of Tamil Nadu and others¹. It is made clear that for a

¹ 2015 (6) CTC 107 : (2015) 7 MLJ 394 : 2015 (2) CWC 752

period of two weeks from today, i.e., 29 April 2016, status quo as obtained today, in respect of the property in question, shall be maintained by both the parties and the petitioner is restrained from making any further construction in the property in question.

With the above directions, the writ petition stands disposed of sans costs. Connected W.M.P. is closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (CS-VI)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

cad

To

- 1 The Commissioner
Corporation of Chennai
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Chennai 600 003
- 2 The Executive Engineer
Town Planning (Enforcement)
O/o the Regional Deputy Commissioner (North)
Corporation of Chennai
Basin Bridge Road
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- 3 The Secretary to Government
Housing and Urban Development Department
Government of Tamil Nadu
Fort St. George
Chennai 600 009

1 cc to Mr.A.Nagarajan, Advocate, sr.27503

1 cc to Mr.R.Mohan, Advocate, sr.27209

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