

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 26.04.2017

CORAM

THE HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE K.RAVICHANDRABAABU

W.P.No.10602 of 2017

Sivakumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The District Collector,
Thiruvannamalai,
Thiruvannamalai District.
 2. The Sub Collector / Revenue Divisional Officer,
Office of the Sub Collector,
Cheyyar, Thiruvannamalai District.
 3. The Tahsildar,
Office of the Tahsildar,
Vandavasi, Thiruvannamalai District.
 4. The Inspector of Police,
Kilkodungalur Police Station,
Kilkodungalur,
Thiruvannamalai District.
- ... Respondents

This writ petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd respondent herein to release the Vehicle namely Lorry bearing Registration No. TN-22-BY-8609 to the Petitioner.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.R.Appaswamee

For Respondent : Mr.M.Elumalai,
Government Advocate

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O R D E R

Mr.Elumalai, learned Government Advocate takes notice for the respondent. By consent of the parties, the main writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

2. The petitioner seeks for a Mandamus directing the respondent to release the Lorry bearing Registration No.TN-22-BY-8609 seized by the 3rd respondent on 31.03.2017 to the petitioner.

3. It is stated that the above said vehicle was seized by the 3rd respondent on 31.03.2017 on the allegation that the said vehicle was indulged in transporting sand in violation of certain provisions under the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959. According to the petitioner, there was no such violation and on the other hand, it was used only for the personal consumption of the petitioner. Needless to say that it is for the authority to consider such claim of the petitioner and pass appropriate orders and therefore, this Court, at this stage, is not expressing any view on the claim made by the petitioner. However, considering the fact that the vehicle was seized as early as on 31.03.2017 and the same is kept idle thereby exposing it to sun and rain, which undoubtedly would diminish its value, this Court is of the view that the following order will protect the interest of both parties:

a) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) before the 2nd respondent within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order .

b) The petitioner shall appear in person and produce all the relevant documents proving the ownership of the vehicle Lorry for verification of the authority in proof of such ownership.

(c) On receipt of payment as stated supra and also on being satisfied with the ownership of the vehicle Lorry, the respondents shall release the same forthwith.

(d) The petitioner shall not use the said vehicle Lorry, for any unlawful purpose and also shall not alienate the same during the pendency of the proceedings.

(e) It is open to the 2nd respondent to initiate proceedings in accordance with law and pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law within a period of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(f) If no such order is passed within the time stipulated therein, the amount so paid by the petitioner shall be refunded to the petitioner.

The writ petition is disposed of accordingly. No costs.

Sd/-
Asst.Registrar (CCC)

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

vsi/mm

To

1. The District Collector,
Thiruvannamalai,
Thiruvannamalai District.
2. The Sub Collector / Revenue Divisional Officer,
Office of the Sub Collector,
Cheyyar, Tiruvannamalai District.
3. The Tahsidar,
Office of the Tahsildar,
Vandavasi, Tiruvannamalai District.
4. The Inspector of Police,
Kilkodungalur Police Station,
Kilkodungalur, Tiruvannamalai District.

+1cc to M/S.V.R.Appaswamee, Advocate Sr.25373

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