

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 08.08.2017

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.DURAI SWAMY

W.P.No.21030 of 2017

Saravanakumar

... Petitioner

Vs

1.The District Collector,
Tiruppur District,
Tiruppur.

2.The Sub Collector/Revenue Divisional Officer,
Dharapuram, Tiruppur District.

3.The Tahsildar,
Dharapuram, Tiruppur District.

... Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of The Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of mandamus directing the respondents to release the petitioner's Ashok Leyland Lorries bearing Registration Nos.TN 78 B 8159 and TN 78 C 2449, which were seized by the 3rd respondent on 02.08.2017 and thereby consider the representation dated 02.08.2017.

For Petitioner : Mr.N.Ponraj

For Respondents : Mr.R.Rajeswaran,
Special Government Pleader

O R D E R

Mr.R.Rajeswaran, learned Special Government Pleader, takes notice for the respondents. By consent, the main Writ Petition itself is taken up for disposal at the admission stage.

2.The petitioner has filed the above Writ Petition to issue a writ of mandamus to direct the respondents to release the petitioner's Ashok Leyland Lorries bearing Registration Nos.TN 78 B 8159 and TN 78 C 2449, which were seized by the 3rd respondent on 02.08.2017 and thereby, consider the representation dated 02.08.2017.

3.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that in similar circumstances, this Court, by order dated 27.02.2017 in W.P.No.4805 of 2017, disposed of the said Writ Petition by imposing some conditions for releasing the vehicle. The relevant portion of the order passed in W.P.No.4805 of 2017 reads as follows:-

"6. Having regard to the fact that the representation dated 24.1.2017 is pending consideration of the 1st respondent, this Court is inclined to dispose of the writ petition with the following direction, since there will not be any purpose in detaining the subject vehicle for a longer period:-

"(i) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) in cash with the first respondent.

(ii) The petitioner shall produce documents before the first respondent to establish the ownership of the vehicle in question.

(iii) The petitioner shall file an undertaking that he will produce the vehicle in question before the respondent as and when called for and that he will not alienate the vehicle in question till the proceedings initiated are completed.

(iv) On compliance of the above conditions, the respondent is directed to release the vehicle to the petitioner within two days.

(v) The respondent shall proceed with the enquiry and pass appropriate orders. The petitioner is also directed to appear and co-operate with the enquiry.

(vi) This order for release of vehicle can be availed of by the petitioner if no criminal case is pending. If any criminal case is pending, it is open to the petitioner to approach the jurisdictional Magistrate to get release of the vehicle by filing appropriate application and the same can be considered in accordance with law".

4.It appears that the vehicles of the petitioner were seized on 02.08.2017 on account of a charge levelled against him that he was transporting sand without any valid bill or permission of the Government.

5.The petitioner, on the other hand, claims that the lorries were hired for levelling agricultural land and therefore, it would not come within the purview of Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959. In this regard, the petitioner seeks to place reliance upon Rule 6 of the said Rules.

6.The petitioner further contends that he had submitted representation on 02.08.2017 in this regard to the third respondent and since no order has been passed on such

representation, he is constrained to file the present Writ Petition. Further, according to the learned counsel for the petitioner, the vehicles are kept in open weather, by which the same is getting damaged.

7.Mr.R.Rajeswaran, learned Special Government Pleader, appearing for the respondents submitted that since the issue involved in the present Writ Petition is covered by the earlier order passed by this Court, the same order can be passed in this writ petition also.

8.Having regard to the submissions made by the learned counsel on either side and that the representation dated 02.08.2017 is pending consideration before the third respondent, this Court is inclined to dispose of the Writ Petition with the following directions, since there will not be any purpose in detaining the subject vehicle for a longer period:-

"(i) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.25,000/- each (Rupees twenty five thousand only) in cash with the first respondent.

(ii)The petitioner shall produce documents before the first respondent to establish the ownership of the vehicles in question.

(iii)The petitioner shall file an undertaking that he will produce the vehicles in question before the respondent as and when called for and that he will not alienate the vehicles in question till the proceedings initiated are completed.

(iv)On compliance of the above conditions, the respondent is directed to release the vehicles to the petitioner within two days.

(v) The respondent shall proceed with the enquiry and pass appropriate orders. The petitioner is also directed to appear and co-operate with the enquiry.

(vi) This order for release of vehicles can be availed of by the petitioner if no criminal case is pending. If any criminal case is pending, it is open to the petitioner to approach the jurisdictional Magistrate to get release of the vehicles by filing appropriate application and the same can be considered in accordance with law."

With the above observations, the Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs.

s/d-
Assistant Registrar(CS-III)

True Copy

Sub-Assistant Registrar

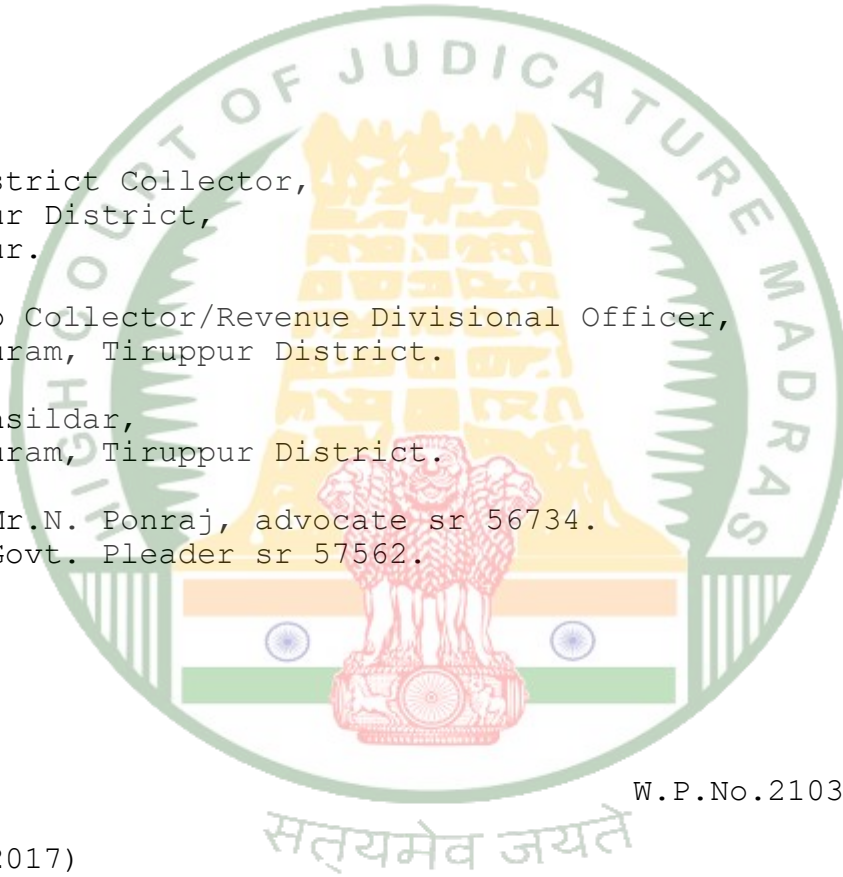
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To

1. The District Collector,
Tiruppur District,
Tiruppur.
2. The Sub Collector/Revenue Divisional Officer,
Dharapuram, Tiruppur District.
3. The Tahsildar,
Dharapuram, Tiruppur District.

+1 CC to Mr.N. Ponraj, advocate sr 56734.

+1 CC to Govt. Pleader sr 57562.



W.P.No.21030 of 2017

SP(11/08/2017)

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