

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 16.11.2017

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K. RAVICHANDRABAABU

W.P.No.29298 of 2017

R.Arjunan

... Petitioner

Vs.

The Regional Transport Officer,
Regional Transport Office,
Chengalpattu,
Kancheepuram District.

... Respondent

PRAYER:

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus to direct the respondent to return the original driving License bearing No.(D.L.TN46-19930001233- endorsement No.TN46/ DLR/0001941/2015) to the petitioner forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Prakasam

For Respondent : Mr.P.V.Selvakumar,
Additional Government Pleader

ORDER

Mr.P.V.Selvakumar, learned Additional Government Pleader takes notice for the respondent and by consent of the parties, the main writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal.

2. The petitioner seeks for a mandamus directing the respondent to return the original driving License bearing No.(D.L.TN46-19930001233- endorsement No.TN46/ DLR/0001941/2015) to the petitioner forthwith.

3. It is seen that the petitioner is a driver employed in the Tamil Nadu State Express Transport Corporation Limited, Chennai Region, Trichy Division, Trichy Branch, and his driving license was seized in pursuant to an accident that took place on 19.08.2017 followed by registration of a criminal case in Crime No.498 of 2017. It is further stated that the license of the petitioner is not suspended so far and no proceedings in any

form was issued to the petitioner till this date. Therefore, it is contended by the petitioner that the seizure of the license and retaining the same is erroneous merely because the criminal case was registered against the petitioner in respect of an accident. Learned counsel for the petitioner, in support of his contention relied on the decision reported in 2010 Writ L.R. 100 (P.Sethuram vs. The Licensing Authority, The Regional Transport Officer, The Regional Transport Office, Dindigul) and a single Judge decision made in W.P.No.16958/2013 dated 01.07.2013 reported in 2013 Writ L.R.843 (S.Duraivelu vs. The Regional Transport Officer, West Tambaram, Chennai & 2 others).

4. Learned counsel appearing for the respondent submitted that the license of the petitioner was seized since an accident had taken place on 19.07.2017 while the petitioner was driving the vehicle.

5. Heard both sides.

6. It is seen that the petitioner's driving license was seized pursuant to the accident that had taken place on 19.08.2017 followed by the registration of the criminal case. It is further seen that the license of the petitioner has not been suspended so far. Even in respect of the cases where the license were suspended, this Court in the above referred cases, has held that the authorities are not entitled to suspend the license merely because the criminal case is registered against the petitioner. Therefore, the petitioner is entitled to get back the license, however, with liberty to the respondent to proceed against the petitioner in accordance with law.

7. Accordingly, the writ petition is allowed and the respondent is directed to return the driving license of the petitioner immediately on receipt of a copy of this order. However, it shall not preclude the respondent from initiating any action, if any of the contingencies specified in Clauses (a) to (h) of Section 19(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, arises later or if any of the Rules as prescribed by the Central Government in pursuance of Section 19(1)(f) of the Act, are violated. No costs.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CS VIII)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

vsi

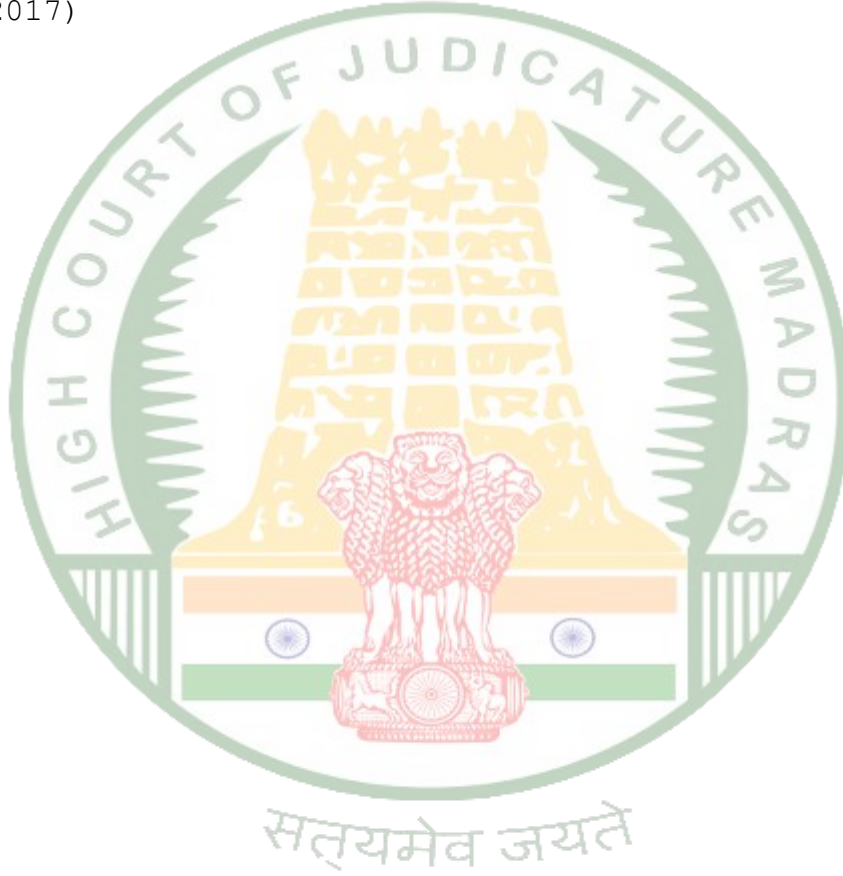
To

The Regional Transport Officer,
Regional Transport Office,
Chengalpattu,
Kancheepuram District.

+lcc to Mr.C.Prakasam, Advocate, S.R.No.81804(20.11.2017)

W.P.No.29298 of 2017

MN(CO)
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