

THE HON' BLE SRI JUSTICE M. SEETHARAMA MURTI

WRIT PETITION No.34944 of 2017

ORDER:

This writ petition, under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, is filed by the petitioner questioning the seizure of vehicles/ Lorries bearing Nos.TS 12 UA 8933 & AP 24 Y 3605 as illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional.

I have heard the submissions of the learned counsel for the petitioner and of the learned Assistant Government Pleader representing the 2nd respondent.

Learned counsel for the petitioner first submitted that the vehicles were seized while transporting sand. He next submitted that in view of the terms of G.O.Ms.No.15, dated 19.02.2015, the petitioner is entitled to seek release of the vehicles from the 2nd respondent and that the 2nd respondent is empowered to release the vehicles and that the issue is covered by the decisions of this Court.

Learned AGP would submit that the seized vehicles are deposited/ produced before the Court of the learned Additional Judicial Magistrate of First Class, Sangareddy, on 12.10.2017, and, therefore, the writ petitioner is required to make appropriate application before the Court of the learned Magistrate for release of the vehicles.

However, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that even if the vehicles are produced before the competent Court, still, as per the terms of the afore-said GO, the 2nd respondent/ authority concerned is also empowered to consider the request of the petitioner for release of the seized vehicles in matters of this nature as per policy decision taken by the Government.

Having regard to the submissions and the terms of G.O.Ms.No.15, dated 19.02.2015, the Writ Petition is disposed of with the following directions: 'The

petitioner is at liberty to approach either the learned Magistrate before whom the vehicles were said to have been produced and file application/ s as per the procedure established by law and seek release of the vehicles by bringing to the notice of the Court the policy decision taken by the Government and the terms of G.O.Ms.No.15, dated 19.02.2015, if the petitioner so desires; or, in the alternative the petitioner may make a request to the 2nd respondent by filing appropriate application/ s for release of the vehicles; and, if any such application/ s come/ s to be filed before the 2nd respondent, the 2nd respondent is at liberty to pass appropriate orders as per terms of G.O.Ms.No.15, dated 19.02.2015, after examining the competence and jurisdiction to release the vehicles, which were said to have been produced before the Court.’ It is needless to state that the application/ s, if any, filed by the petitioner before either the Court or the 2nd respondent shall be disposed of on the same day in the interests of justice.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Miscellaneous petitions pending, if any, shall stand closed.

M.Seetharama Murti, J

30.10.2017

Note: Issue CC by 31.10.2017.

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