

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 27.02.2018

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.RAVICHANDRABAABU

Writ Petition No.4278 of 2018

A.K.Venkatesan
S/o.Krishnamoorthy

.. Petitioner

versus

1.The District Collector
Villupuram Collectorate Buildings
Villupuram.

2.The Revenue Divisional Officer
Jakkampet, RDO Office
Tindivanam, Villupuram District.

3.The Tahsildar
Gingee Taluk Office
Gingee, Villupuram District.

4.The Inspector of Police
Sathyamangalam Police Station
Gingee Sub Division
Villupuram District.

... Respondents

Writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 3 to release the petitioner's vehicle bearing Register No.TN25 F 2709 model Sonalika (under the custody of the 3rd respondent) based on the petitioner's representation dated 09.02.2018.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Padmanabhan

For Respondents : Mr.E.Balamurugan

Additional Government Pleader

O R D E R

Mr.E.Balamurugan, learned Additional Government Pleader takes notice for the respondents. 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 respondents 1 to 3 to release the petitioner's vehicle bearing Register No.TN25 F 2709, model Sonalika.

3. It is stated that the above vehicle was seized by the second respondent on 09.11.2017 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 09.11.2017 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.20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand) before the second 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 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, the respondents shall release the same forthwith.

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

(e) It is open to the respondents 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.

(g) This order for release of the vehicle can be availed of by the petitioner, if the vehicle is not in the custody of criminal Court. If the vehicle is in the custody of the criminal Court, 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.

The writ petition is disposed of accordingly. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS VI)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The District Collector
Villupuram Collectorate Buildings
Villupuram.
- 2.The Revenue Divisional Officer
Jakkampet, RDO Office
Tindivanam, Villupuram District.
- 3.The Tahsildar
Gingee Taluk Office
Gingee, Villupuram District.
- 4.The Inspector of Police
Sathyamangalam Police Station
Gingee Sub Division
Villupuram District.

+1cc to Mr.D.Padmanabhan, Advocate, S.R.No.14963

+1cc to the Government Pleader, S.R.No.15374

W.P.No.4278 of 2018

MG(CO)
RRK(14/03/2018)



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