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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28.04.2018

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE S.MANIKUMAR

AND

THE HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE V.BHAVANI SUBBAROYAN

W.P.No.11152 of 2018

M/s.Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Officer,
No. 3rd Floor, MTH Rajan Properties,
40, Bazullah Road, T.Nagar,
Chennai - 600 017.

... Petitioner

vs.

1. District Collector / District Magistrate,
Vellore District, Vellore.

2. S.Sasi

3. N.Shanmugam

... Respondents

WRIT Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a writ of Mandamus, directing the 1st respondent to pass orders on the petition filed on 06.06.2017 u/s.14(1) of SARFAESI Act, within the time stipulated by this Honourable Court.

For Petitioner	: Mr.P.Chandrasekar
For Respondents	: Mr.V.Prabhu (for R1) Government Advocate

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by S.MANIKUMAR, J)

M/s.Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited, Chennai, represented by its Authorised Officer, has sought for a writ of mandamus, directing the District Collector / District Magistrate, Vellore to provide assistance under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.



2. Supporting the prayer sought for, M/s.Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited, Chennai, has enclosed the copy of the application dated 06.06.2017. Contending inter alia that no order has been passed on the petition filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, instant writ petition has been filed for the prayer, stated supra.

3. On this day, when the writ petition came up for admission, on instructions, Mr.V.Prabhu, learned Government Advocate, submitted that orders are yet to be passed in the application filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and he prayed for four weeks time.

4. As the District Collector / District Magistrate, Vellore, the 1st respondent is bound to pass orders on the application, we are of the view that there is no need to issue notice to respondents 2 and 3. Hence, notice to respondents 2 and 3, is waived.

5. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the parties and perused the materials available on record.

6. Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 mandates that on receipt of an affidavit from the Authorised Officer, the District Magistrate or the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, as the case may be, shall after satisfying the contents of the affidavit, pass suitable orders for the purpose of taking possession of the secured assets, within a period of 30 days from the date of application. Proviso to the said Section states that if no order is passed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or District Magistrate, within the said period of thirty days, for the reasons beyond his control, he may after recording reasons, in writing, for the same, pass the order within such also period but not exceeding in aggregate 60 days.

7. The Principal Secretary to Government, vide, Letter No.19498/Res.II/2014-1, dated 09.07.2014, has issued directions, stating that there should be speedy disposal of the application filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act. The said letter is extracted hereunder:-

"I am to invite your kind attention to the reference cited (copy enclosed) wherein the GM, SLBC, Chennai, has requested to advise the District Collectors (District Magistrates) for speedy disposal of applications filed by banks to assist in taking possession of securities of the defaulters charged to the banks under Section 14 of SARFAESI Act, 2002.



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2. In this connection, I am to request you to take necessary action for speedy disposal of the applications filed by the banks in taking possession of securities of the defaulters charged to the banks under Section 14 of SARFAESI Act, 2002, without affecting the image of the administration."

8. Following the said letter, in W.P.No.7813 of 2016, dated 22.04.2016, a Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court, has passed the following order:-

"In the light of the above, we direct the District Collector (District Magistrate), Thanjavur District, to pass orders on the Application dated 18/8/2015 in file Ref.No.34810/2015, filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, within the period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. While doing so, procedure set out under Section 14 of the Act should be followed. Mr.B.Kumar, learned Additional Government Pleader is directed to forward the copy of this order to the Principal Secretary to Government, Finance (Res.II), Department, Chennai for appropriate follow up action. 10. Along with the supporting affidavit, to the instant writ petition, the petitioner has also enclosed the copies of the petitions, dated 8/1/2014, 7/5/2014, 11/9/2014, 24/12/2014 and 31/1/2015, filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002."

9. Placing on record the submission of the learned Government Advocate and in the light of the directions issued by the Principal Secretary to Government, vide, Letter No.19498/Res.II/2014-1, dated 09.07.2014 and the earlier order of this Court in W.P.No.7813 of 2016, dated 22.04.2016, this Court is inclined to pass the following orders,

"The District Collector / District Magistrate, Vellore, is directed to dispose of the application dated 06.06.2017, if not done earlier, within a period of four weeks, from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. While doing so, District Collector / District Magistrate, Vellore, should act in accordance with Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002."



10. With the above observation and direction, this writ petition is disposed of accordingly. No costs.

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Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CS V)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

District Collector / District Magistrate,
Vellore District, Vellore.

W.P.No.11152 of 2018

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srg 18/05/2018