

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 04.06.2018

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE S.MANIKUMAR
AND
THE HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE V.BHAVANI SUBBAROYAN

W.P.No.11638 of 2018

M/s.Shriram Housing Finance Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Officer,
Mrs.Asha Lukose. ... Petitioner

vs.

The District Collector
(District Magistrate)
Salem Collectorate,
Salem District. ... Respondent

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 09.01.2018 U/s.14(1) of SARFAESI Act, within the time stipulated by this Hon'ble Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Ramakrishnan
for Mr.A.Ajmal Azzath

For Respondent : Mr.V.Prabhu
Government Advocate

ORDER

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

Seeking assistance, for taking physical possession, M/s.Shriram Housing Finance, Chennai has filed petition dated 09.01.2018, under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, before the District Collector / Magistrate, Salem District.

2. According to the petitioner, the said petition is pending for nearly five months. Left with no other alternative, instant writ petition has been filed for a mandamus, directing the respondent, to pass orders on the application 09.01.2018 under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, within such time frame to be fixed by this Court.

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 petition filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and he prayed for four weeks time.

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

5. 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.

6. 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.

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."

7. 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."

8. 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 / Magistrate, Salem Collectorate, Salem District, is directed to dispose of the application dated 09.01.2018, 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 / Magistrate, Salem Collectorate, Salem District, should act in accordance with Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002."

9. With the above direction, this writ petition is disposed of accordingly. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS VIII)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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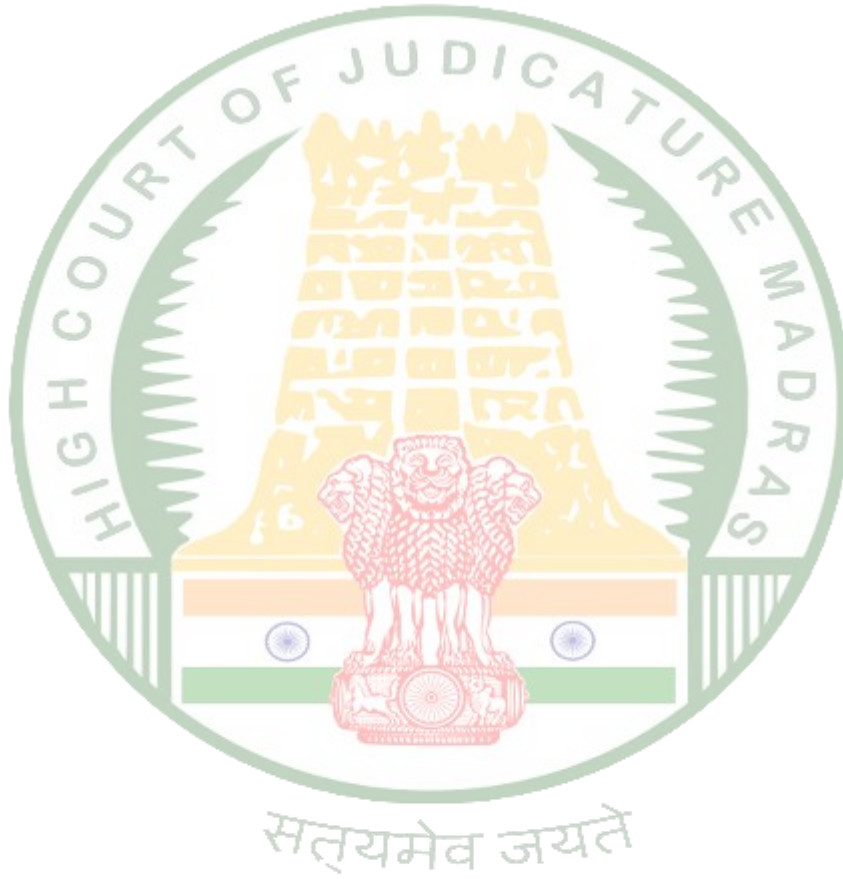
To

The District Collector / District Magistrate,
Salem Collectorate, Salem District

+1cc to Government Pleader in sr.no.35013

W.P.No.11638 of 2018

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