

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 09.02.2018

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.RAVICHANDRABAABU

Writ Petition No.2823 of 2018

P.Palani
S/o.Ponnusamy

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. Inspector of Police
Traffic Investigation Wing
G7, Achirapakkam Police Station
Kancheepuram District.
2. The Regional Transport Officer
Maduranthagam
Kancheepuram District.
3. Regional Transport Officer
Dharmapuri.

.. Respondents

Writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd and 3rd respondents herein to return the Original Driving License (DL.No.TN-29 19800000191) to the petitioner forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.Hariharan
For Respondents : Mr.S.Soundararajan
Government Advocate

सत्यमेव जयते
O R D E R

Mr.S.Soundararajan, learned Government Advocate takes notice for the respondents. By consent of the parties, the main writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

2. The petitioner seeks for a Mandamus, directing the 2nd and 3rd respondents to return his original driving license bearing DL.No.TN-29 19800000191.

3. Heard both sides.

4. The petitioner is a driver in KPN Travels, Salem. It is stated that the petitioner's driving licence was seized, in pursuant to an accident taken place on 20.01.2018 and followed by the registration of FIR in Crime No.22 of 2018 under Sections 279 & 337 of IPC. Now the petitioner seeks for return of the driving licence by contending that the 2nd and 3rd respondents are not entitled to seize and retain the driving licence, simply because a criminal case is filed against the petitioner and the same is pending.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner invited the attention of this Court to the Division Bench decision of this Court 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), wherein, this Court has considered a similar issue and found that even the suspension of the license on the ground that a criminal case is pending, is erroneous. I myself followed the above decisions in similar cases, wherein licence was suspended. Hence, I do not think that the respondents 2 and 3 are justified in retaining the driving license of the petitioner.

6. Accordingly, the writ petition is allowed and the respondents are directed to return the driving license of the petitioner immediately on receipt of a copy of this order. However, it shall not preclude the respondents 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.

सत्यमेव जयते

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS III)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

mk

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To

1.The Inspector of Police
Traffic Investigation Wing
G7, Achirapakkam Police Station
Kancheepuram District.

2.The Regional Transport Officer
Maduranthagam
Kancheepuram District.

3.The Regional Transport Officer
Dharmapuri.

+1 cc to Mr.K.Hariharan Advocate sr 9969

+1 cc to the Govt Pleader High Court Madras
sr 10622

W.P.No.2823 of 2018

aa19/02/2018



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