

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
DATED: 29/6/2018
C O R A M
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE S.MANIKUMAR
AND
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

Writ Petition No.16015 of 2018

Standard Chartered Bank
A Company Banking Company Incorporated
under the Royal Charter
rep. By its Authorised Officer
Mr.E.Rajendran
having its Principal Office
at No.1 Basing Hall Avenue
London, ECV2V5DD No.1 Aldermen Bury Square
London EC2V7SB
Inter alia its Branch Office at
No.19 Rajaji Salai
Chennai 600 001. Petitioner

Vs

The District Collector-cum-
District Magistrate
Office of the Collectorate
Coimbatore District. Respondent

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for issuance of a Writ of mandamus to direct the respondent namely the District Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Coimbatore, to provide administrative assistance on an expeditious basis under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, to take possession of the secured assets with respect to the applications filed by the petitioner, which is pending on the file of the respondent.

For petitioner ... Mr.V.Jayachandran

For respondent ... Mr.M.Sricharan Rangarajan
Additional Government Pleader

O R D E R

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

Standard Chartered Bank, represented by its Authorised Officer, has sought for a writ of mandamus, directing the District Collector cum District Magistrate, Coimbatore, to pass orders, on the petitioner's application, dated 8/9/2017, filed under Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate, appearing for the first respondent and perused the materials available on record.

3. As per 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.

4. The Principal Secretary to Government, vide, Letter No.19498/Res.II/2014-1, dated 9/7/2014, 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."

5. Following the said letter, in W.P.No.7813 of 2016, dated 22/4/2016, 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."

6. In the light of the directions issued by the Principal Secretary to Government, vide, Letter No.19498/Res.II/2014-1, dated 9/7/2014 and earlier order of this Court in W.P.No.7813 of 2016, dated 22/4/2016, this Court is inclined to pass the following orders,

"The District Collector cum District Magistrate, Coimbatore, is directed to dispose of the application of the petitioner, dated 8/9/2017, 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 cum District Magistrate, Coimbatore, should act in accordance with Section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002."

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

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS V)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The District Collector/District Magistrate
Coimbatore.

GP(co)
sm:16.7.2018

W.P.No.16015 of 2018

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