



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 18.07.2018

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

W.P. (MD) No.21789 of 2017

V.Ramasamy

... Petitioner

Vs.

The Executive Engineer
(Operations and Maintenance)
TANGEDCO
Meenakshi Naickenpatti
Angunagar EB Complex
Dindigul District

... Respondent

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of writ of mandamus directing the respondent herein to provide the electricity service connection in respect of the petitioner's agriculture lands comprised in Survey No.1631/1 and S.No.1477/19 at Chinnalagu Naickanoor, R.Kombai Village, Vedasandur Taluk, Dindigul District, on the basis of the petitioner's representation dated 05.07.2017 within a stipulated time.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Lawrance

For Respondent : Mrs.S.Srimathy
Standing Counsel**ORDER**

The only ground on which, the petitioner's application seeking for free agricultural electricity service connection came to be rejected is that he has failed to show his readiness within the stipulated time as contemplated under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission.

2. The learned standing counsel for the respondent, by relying upon a Circular, dated 22.09.2009, issued by the Chief Engineer / Planning & Resource Centre, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, submitted that whenever there is a delay in reporting readiness by the applicants beyond the period of one year, an extension could be given upto five years from the date of expiry of 90 days notice period. After the expiry of five years, the application will stand automatically cancelled and cannot be revoked. It is on the basis of this Circular, dated 22.09.2009, the petitioner's request for free agricultural electricity service connection after the period of five years has been cancelled.



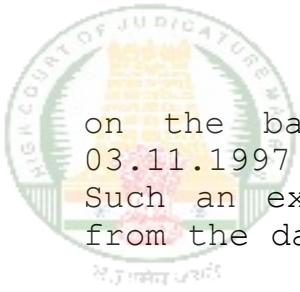
3. I have perused the Circular dated 22.09.2009 issued by the Chief Engineer / Planning & Resource Centre, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, to all the Chief Engineers, Distribution, Region. Apparently, the said Circular is an interdepartmental circular and it cannot be deemed to be an order binding upon the petitioner as such.

4. In an identical situation, in W.P.(MD) No.3798 of 2013, this Court had an occasion to deal with the said Circular. The petitioner in the said writ petition had sought for free agricultural electricity service connection after a period of five years. This Court, by an Order dated 05.04.2013, had observed as follows:

"4. There is no dispute that the petitioner registered his name as early as on 24.12.1990 for the purpose of providing electricity service connection to his property in S.No.466/3 at Kalathur Village, Pattukottai Taluk, Thanjavur District. The first respondent appears to have issued a communication dated 06.06.2003 directing the petitioner to approach the third respondent for the purpose of providing service connection. Admittedly, the petitioner failed to respond to the said direction. The petitioner now wanted electricity service connection on the basis of his original registration. The first respondent, relying on the circular dated 22.09.2009 issued by the Chief Engineer, Chennai, denied service connection to the petitioner. The said circular is only a departmental communication, which has no sanction of law. When there is a service connection allotted to the petitioner, the same cannot be denied on the basis of a departmental circular issued by the Chief Engineer. Therefore, I am of the view that the Executive Engineer was not right in denying service connection to the petitioner"

5. The above order is self-explanatory. As such, the respondent may not be justified in relying upon the Circular, dated 22.09.2009 and thereby, deny free agricultural electricity service connection to the petitioner herein.

6. In the result, the writ petition stands allowed with a direction to the respondent herein to provide free agricultural electricity service connection to the petitioner's agriculture lands, comprised in Survey Nos.1631/1 and 1477/19 of Chinnalagu Naickanoor, R.Kombai Village, Veda sandur Taluk, Dindigul District,



on the basis of the original registration of his name, dated 03.11.1997 for free agricultural electricity service connection. Such an exercise shall be completed within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

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/True Copy/

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CO)

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS-III)

+1CC to Mr.S.M.S.JOHNNY BASHA, SR.No.73880
+1CC to Mr.J.LAWRANCE, Advocate, SR.No. 73706

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18.07.2018
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