

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 02.04.2019

Coram

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. Subbiah
and
The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Krishnan Ramasamy

Writ Petition No.9320 of 2019

K. Balu

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Assistant Director,
Geology & Mining,
Colletorate,
Tiruvallur - 602 001.

2. The Tahsildar,
Gummidipoondi Taluk,
Tiruvallur District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Arambalam Police Station,
Tiruvallur District.

...Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to release the petitioner's lorry bearing Registration No. TN 54 B 5906, Engine No. MAT466401A2D09600 and Chassis No.01D62867557 and Maruthi Suzuki Dzire VDI Car bearing Registration No. TN 18 AX 4698, Engine No.D13A-3356555 and Chassis No.MA3CZ, which were seized by the third respondent on 16.10.2018 and are kept in the police station premise till date.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.K.M.Appaji

For Respondents: Mr.D.Raghu,
Government Advocate

O R D E R

[Order was delivered by R.SUBBIAH,J]

The petitioner has filed the above Writ Petition praying for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the

respondents to release the petitioner's lorry bearing Registration No. TN 54 B 5906, Engine No. MAT466401A2D09600 and Chassis No.01D62867557 and Maruthi Suzuki Dzire VDI Car bearing Registration No. TN 18 AX 4698, Engine No.D13A-3356555 and Chassis No.MA3CZ, which were seized by the third respondent on 16.10.2018 and are kept in the police station premise till date.

2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned Government Advocate for the respondents.

3. According to the petitioner, the respondents have seized the vehicle in question on 16.10.2018 on the ground of illegal carrying river sand, and till date, no order for release of the said vehicle had been passed by the respondents. Hence, he has come forward with the present Writ Petition.

4. On the other hand, it is submitted by learned Government Advocate for the respondents that the vehicle in question was used for illegal transportation of mines and minerals like river sand and hence, the vehicle was seized. He further submitted that the petitioner has no previous case.

5. In any event, as the vehicle is under the custody of the respondents from the date of seizure and considering the fact that if the same is allowed to be kept idle by exposing the same to rain and sun, it would certainly diminish their value, this Court is of the view that the vehicle in question may be released by imposing certain conditions on the petitioner.

6. Accordingly, the respondents are directed to release the vehicle in question to the petitioner within a period of 7 days from the date of compliance of the condition Nos.(i) to (iii), which are mentioned below:

(i)The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) to the vehicle bearing Registration No. TN 54 B 5906 and Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) to the vehicle bearing Registration No. TN 18 AX 4698 respectively, before the jurisdictional Tahsildar concerned as non-refundable deposit. After receipt of the above said amount, the same will have to be deposited by the jurisdictional Tahsildar concerned, to the credit of the District Mines and Minerals Foundation Trust as non-refundable deposit.

(ii)The petitioner shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the

concerned jurisdictional Judicial Magistrate.

(iii)The petitioner shall give an undertaking before the respondents/authority concerned stating that he will not use the vehicle in question for any illegal activities in future and shall produce the same as and when required by the respondents and also the trial Court, failing which the respondents/trial Court is/are at liberty to confiscate the vehicle.

(iv)The petitioner shall not alienate the vehicle in question till the disposal of the proceedings before the authority concerned.

(v)The petitioner is also directed to participate in the enquiry to be conducted by the respondents.

With the above observations and directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS iv)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

av/vkr
To

1. The Assistant Director,
Geology & Mining,
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Tiruvallur - 602 001.
2. The Tahsildar,
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Tiruvallur District.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Arambalam Police Station,
Tiruvallur District.

+1 cc to Government Pleader SR.NO. 32719

+1cc to Mr.C.K.M.Appaji ,Advocate SR.No. 31440

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A.SK(09/04/2019)