

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 15.05.2019

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.V.KARTHIKEYAN
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

Writ Petition No.13198 of 2019

V.Ramesh

...Petitioner

Vs

- 1.The Sub Collector,
Office of the Sub Collector,
Nagapattinam,
Nagapattinam District.
 - 2.The Assistant Director,
Geology and Mining, Nagapattinam,
Office of the Geology and Mining/District Collectorate,
Nagapattinam District.
 - 3.The Inspector of Police,
Nagore Police Station, Nagore
Nagapattinam District.
- ... Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of The Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents herein to release the petitioner's vehicle TATA Ace bearing Registration No.TN-51-F-9645 and bearing Engine No.2751D106EYYS86090 and Chassis No.MAT445056BZE41081 based on the petitioner's representation dated 12.04.2019 and handover the vehicle to the petitioner forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.S.Baalaji
For Respondents: Mr.K.Ravikumar
Additional Government Pleader
O R D E R

[Order of the Court was delivered by KRISHNAN RAMASAMY,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 vehicle TATA Ace bearing Registration No.TN-51-F-9645, seized by the third respondent.

2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner and learned Additional Government Pleader for the respondents.

3. According to the petitioner, the third respondent has seized the vehicle in question on 23.03.2019 on the ground of illegal carrying of 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 Additional Government Pleader for the respondents that the vehicle in question was used for illegal transportation of mines and minerals like river sand and there was no valid permit and hence, the vehicle was seized.

5. In any event, as the vehicle is under the custody of the third respondent 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 shine, it would certainly diminish their value, this Court is of the view that the vehicle in question may be released by imposing conditions on the petitioner.

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

- (i) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) 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 respondent.

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

Sd/-
Vacation officer

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

rpl/pri

To

- 1.The Sub Collector,
Office of the Sub Collector,
Nagapattinam,
Nagapattinam District.
- 2.The Assistant Director,
Geology and Mining, Nagapattinam,
Office of the Geology and Mining/District Collectorate,
Nagapattinam District.
- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Nagore Police Station, Nagore
Nagapattinam District.

+1cc to Mr.A.S.Baalaji , Advocate SR.No.43900
+1 cc to Government Pleader Sr.No.43988

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A.SK(22/05/2019)

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