

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 15.05.2019

Coram

The Hon'ble Mr.Justice C.V.Karthikeyan
and
The Hon'ble Mr.Justice Krishnan Ramasamy

Writ Petition No.14335 of 2019

R. Venkatesan

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Assistant Director,
Geology and Mines Department,
Villupuram.

2. The Revenue Thasildar,
Ulundurpet Taluk,
Villupuram 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 vehicle JCB 3DX Backhoe Loader bearing Registration No.TN-91-V-5793 (Engine No. H00147406), which was seized by the first respondent on 29.04.2019 and to hand over the same to the petitioner forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.Saravana Kumar S.

For Respondents : Mr.J.Ramesh,
Additional Government Pleader

O R D E R

[Order 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 JCB 3DX Backhoe Loader bearing Registration No.TN-91-V-5793 (Engine No. H00147406), which was seized by the first respondent.

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

3. According to the petitioner, the respondents have seized the vehicle in question on 29.04.2019 on the ground of illegal carrying 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 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 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.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five 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 respondent/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

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

asi/vsi

To

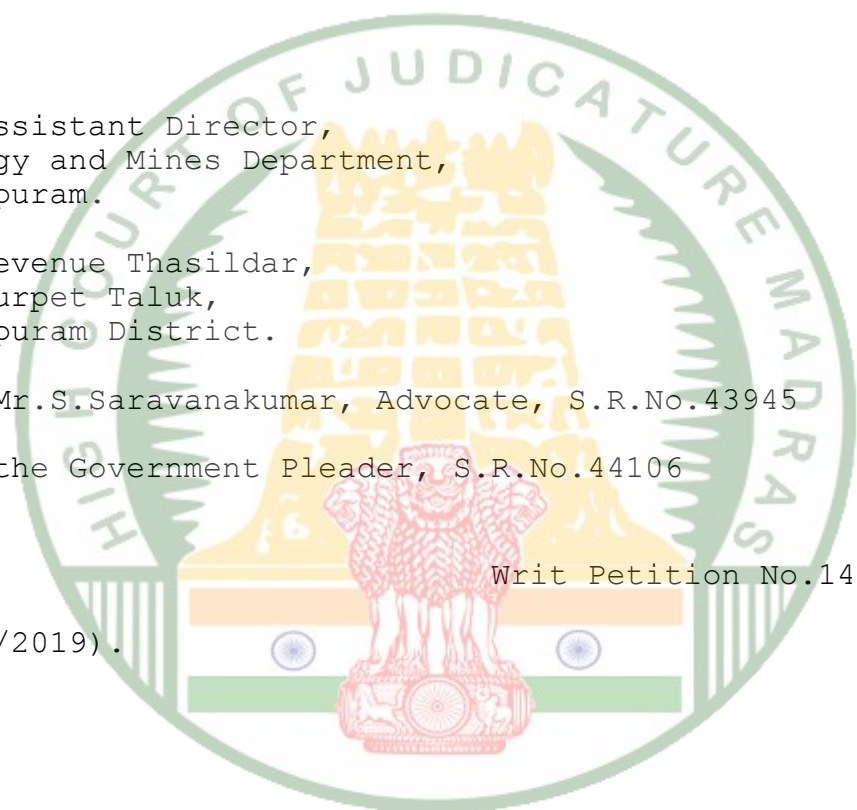
1. The Assistant Director,
Geology and Mines Department,
Villupuram.
2. The Revenue Thasildar,
Ulundurpet Taluk,
Villupuram District.

+1 cc to Mr.S.Saravanakumar, Advocate, S.R.No.43945

+1 cc to the Government Pleader, S.R.No.44106

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KK(CO)
SSM(23/05/2019).

The seal of the High Court of Madras is a circular emblem. It features a central yellow temple gopuram (tower) with a red lion standing in front of it. The lion is facing forward and is flanked by two smaller lions. Below the lion is a red wheel. The entire emblem is set against a background of a green and white striped banner. The words "HIS COURT OF JUDICATURE MADRAS" are written in a circular border around the emblem. Below the emblem, the Sanskrit motto "सत्यमेव जयते" (Satyameva Jayate) is written in Devanagari script.

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