

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 14.06.2019

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SUBBIAH
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.SARAVANAN

Writ Petition No.15930 of 2019

P.Karthik

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Assistant Director,
Geology & Mining,
Collectorate, Vellore District.

2. The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Vellore, Vellore District.

(*) 3. The Tahsildar,
Office of the Tahsildar,
Katpadi, Vellore District.

4. The Inspector of Police,
Thiruvalam Police Station,
Thiruvalam, Vellore District.

... Respondents

(Respondents 3 & 4 impleaded vide
order of this Court, dated 28/11/2019
and made in WMP.No.29702 of 2019)

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of The Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to release the Tata pickup Van bearing Registration No.TN-23-BD-0252, which was seized by the first respondent on 07.09.2018 and thereby consider the representation dated 05.10.2018.

For Petitioner : Mr.K.R.Gunashekar

For Respondents : Mr.E.Balamurugan,
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

[Order was delivered by R.SUBBIAH, J]

Petitioner has filed the above Writ Petition praying for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to release the Tata pickup Van bearing Registration No.TN-23-BD-0252, seized by the first respondent on 07.09.2018.

2. Heard learned counsel for petitioner and learned Special Government Pleader for respondents.

3. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that respondents have seized the vehicle in question on 07.09.2018 on the ground of illegal carrying of river sand and till date, no order for release of the said vehicle had been passed by respondents. Hence, he has come forward with the present Writ Petition.

4. On the other hand, it is submitted by learned Government Pleader for 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 would further submit that 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 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 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 below mentioned condition Nos.(i) to (iii):

- (i) 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) 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) 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) Petitioner shall not alienate the vehicle in question till the disposal of the proceedings before the authority concerned.
- (v) 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. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

**(*) Amended as per order of this Court
dated 28/11/2019 and made in WMP.No.29702
of 2019 in WP.No.15930 of 2019**

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

To be substituted for the order already despatched

1. The Assistant Director,
Geology & Mining,
Collectorate, Vellore District.
2. The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Vellore, Vellore District.
3. The Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Vellore District.
4. The District Munsif -cum- Judicial Magistrate,
Arcot, Vellore District.
5. The Tahsildar,
Office of the Tahsildar, Katpadi, Vellore District.
6. The Inspector of Police,
Thiruvalam Police Station,
Thiruvalam, Vellore District.

+1cc to M/s.B.S.Ramesh, Advocate, SR.No.99891

Writ Petition No.15930 of 2019

RSK(CO) /(GJ-CO- 11/12/19)
RMP(03/07/2019)
AKM/11.12.19 /3P-8C/