

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 18.12.2019

CORAM

THE HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

Crl.R.C.No.1417 of 2019

Suresh

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State represented by'
Inspector of Police,
Thittacherry Police Station,'
Nagapattinam District.
Crime No.343/2019

.... Respondent

Criminal Revision filed under Section 397 read with Section 401 Cr.P.C. seeking to set aside the order passed in Crl.M.P.No.3130 of 2019 dated 11.11.2019 on the file of the learned District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam and further direct the respondents to return the petitioner's vehicle bearing Regn.No.TN 51 J 1931, Tata ACE seized in Cr.No.343 of 2019 on the file of the respondent police.

For Petitioner : Mr.M. Guru Prasad

For Respondent : Mr.K. Prabakar,
Addl. Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

This criminal revision has been filed seeking to set aside the order dated 11.11.2019 passed by the District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam in Crl.M.P.No.3130 of 2019.

2.During regular rounds, the respondent police intercepted a vehicle bearing Regn.No.TN 51 J 1931, Tata ACE (belonging to the petitioner) containing illegal sand, seized the vehicle and registered a case in Crime No.343 of 2019 on 14.12.2018 under Section 379 and 430 IPC read with Section 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Seeking return of the vehicle, the petitioner, being the owner filed Crl.M.P.No.3130 of 2019 under Section 451 Cr.P.C. before the Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam and the said petition was dismissed by order dated 11.11.2019, challenging which, the present petition has been filed.

3. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent State.

4. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that there is no previous case against the petitioner nor this vehicle involved in any other case earlier. Though the reasons given by the trial Court in dismissing the petition cannot be faulted, yet, this Court is of the view that if the vehicle remains in the custody of the police indefinitely, it will get deteriorated.

5. In view of the guidelines given by the Supreme Court in *Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai Vs. State of Gujarat* [(2002) 10 SCC 290], this Court is of the view that interests of justice will be served, if the vehicle is ordered to be released to the petitioner on certain stringent conditions. The respondent police is directed to grant interim custody of the said vehicle bearing Regn.No.TN 51 J 1931, Tata ACE to the petitioner within a period of 7 days from the date of compliance of the below mentioned conditions:

- i. the petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) before the jurisdictional Tahsildar as non-refundable deposit. After receipt of the above said amount, the same will have to be deposited by the Tahsildar, 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/- with two sureties each for a like sum to the satisfaction of the District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam. The petitioner and the sureties shall affix their photographs and give the copies of their Aadhaar Card;
- iii. the petitioner shall give an undertaking before the respondent/ 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 respondent and also the trial Court, failing which the respondent/trial Court is 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 shall take photograph of the vehicle and submit the same along with Compact Disc duly certified under Section 65-B of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872;

vi. the petitioner shall surrender the original R.C. book before the District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam. ; and

vii. the petitioner is also directed to participate in the enquiry to be conducted by the respondent.

viii. It is also made clear that after release of the vehicle on complying with the conditions imposed by this court, if the said vehicle is found to be involved in any of the offence, it is always open to the respondent to proceed further for confiscation.

ix. Petition relating to return of R.C. Book for any purpose in the future, may be filed before the District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, who may consider the same on merits.

6. This petition is allowed in the above terms.

s/d-
Assistant Registrar (CO)

True Copy

Sub-Assistant Registrar

msr

To

1. The District and Sessions Judge
Nagapattinam District

2. Inspector of Police,
Thittacherry Police Station,
Nagapattinam District.

3. The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.

+1 CC to Mr.M. Guruprasad, Advocate sr 105526.

Cr1.R.C.No.1417 of 2019

LN (CO)

SP(28/01/2020)