



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 21.06.2019

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE ANITA SUMANTHW.P(MD)No.13914 of 2019

WEB COPY

Abdul Minab

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Sub Collector,
Paramakudi,
Ramanathapuram District.

2. The Assistant Director of Mines,
Department of Geology and Mining,
Ramanathapuram District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Elanjambur Police Station,
Ramanathapuram District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: 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 tipper lorry bearing Registration No.TN 05 U 9252, seized on 09.06.2016 and which is in the custody of the third respondent by considering the representation of the petitioner dated 17.06.2019 within a time frame that may be stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.C.Herold Singh

For Respondents : Mr.R.Murugan

Additional Government Pleader

ORDER

The petitioner is the owner of a **Tipper Lorry** (In short 'vehicle') bearing Registration No. TN 05 U 9252 and claims to use the same for legitimate business purposes. On 09.06.2019, the vehicle was seized by the third respondent on the ground that it was transporting sand without a valid license. The vehicle is presently in the custody of the respondent police.

2. According to the petitioner, the above allegation is incorrect and his stand will be vindicated in the course of enquiry, that is, according to the learned Additional Government Pleader, who appears for all the respondents, presently on-going.

3. It is represented that a case in Crime No.17 of 2019 has been registered by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Elanjambur Police Station, Ramanathapuram District.



4. Pending enquiry, I am of the view that the vehicle should be handed back to the possession of the petitioner for the reason that the respondents are not in a position to protect the same against the onslaught of the elements.

5. The third respondent is directed to release the vehicle forthwith and in any event within a period of one week from today strictly subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions:-

- i. The petitioner is directed to remit a sum of **Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only)** to the second respondent for deposit into the District Mineral Foundation Trust that has been constituted under the aegis of the second respondent.
- ii. The petitioner is directed to file an affidavit of undertaking within three days from today to the effect that he is the owner of the vehicle, he will cause production of the vehicle in question before the competent/concerned respondent (as the case may be) as and when called for and that he will not alienate the vehicle in question till the enquiry initiated is completed;
- iii. The petitioner is directed to co-operate in the enquiry to the fullest.
- iv. The second respondent/Assistant Director and Revenue Divisional Officer are directed to pass final orders in the adjudication proceedings, if any, within a period of forty five (45) days from today.

6. A Division Bench of this Court has, on 29.10.2018 issued a series of detailed directions to the concerned authorities targeted at containing illegal sand mining as well as measures to address and prevent such acts. The same are extracted hereunder:-

"(i) The District Level Task Forces and Taluk Level Task Forces, constituted pursuant to the order passed in WP (MD) No.9806 of 2018 should follow the G.O.(Ms) No.135 Industries (MMA.1) Department, dated 13.11.2009 in letter and spirit.

(ii) As stated in the above said Government Order, periodical meetings will have to be held which is inclusive of action taken/to be taken for the illicit mining.

(iii) Steps will have to be taken for dereliction of the duty by the concerned officials.

(iv) Taluk Level Task Forces shall also comply with the directions issued in the Government Order by making frequent surprise checks and submit their report to the District Level Task Forces.

(v) The Taluk Level Task Forces shall meet every fortnight as mandated in the Government Order.

(vi) The responsibility fixed in the Government Order to be strictly construed and action will have to be taken against the erring Village Administrative Officer, Tahsildar, Officer in-charge of Department of Geology and

Rules

(viii) Separate records will have to be maintained by the Village Administrative Officer, Tahsildar and Officer in-charge of the Department of Geology and Mining with respect to the cases involving illicit mining.

(x) The respective District Collectors will have to ensure by making wide publicity of phone particulars assigned to the District Level Task Forces and the Taluk Level Task Forces, so that, the general public can give their complaints. There should be affixture or display of the phone particulars in the Collectorate, Taluk office, Office of Deputy Director and Assistant Director of Geology and Mining and that of the Village Administrative Officer.

(xii) Complaints by an authorised person under Section 21 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 are to be made immediately and not later than one week from the date of seizure.

(xiv) The revenue officials at the time of seizure can issue a memo to the person in-charge of the vehicle, mineral among other things, indicating the seizure made, along with the date and time.

(xvi) Any application for release of vehicle etc., can only be filed before the Special Court alone.

appropriate
https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/



7. Directions No:(xiii) & (xvi) above provide for action to be taken before / by the Special Court, that is, as confined by the same Division Bench on 11.01.2019 in a batch of writ petitions (W.P. (MD)No.22023 of 2018 (batch)), yet to be constituted. Till such time the Special Courts are constituted, release of the seized vehicles may be sought before this Court in terms of Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

8. This Writ Petition is disposed in the above terms. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

To

- 1.The Sub Collector,
Paramakudi,
Ramanathapuram District.
- 2.The Assistant Director of Mines,
Department of Geology and Mining,
Ramanathapuram District.
- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Elanjambur Police Station,
Ramanathapuram District.
- 4.The Officer In-charge,
District Mineral Foundation Trust,
Ramanathapuram District

+1 CC to Mr.S.C.HEROLD SINGH, Advocate (SR-70474[F] dated 21/06/2019)

+1 CC to SPL GP (SR-70969[F] dated 24/06/2019)

W.P (MD) No.13914 of 2019
21.06.2019

mr

MK (28.06.2019) 4P 7C