

HONOURABLE JUSTICE G. SRI DEVI

CRIMINAL REVISION CASE NO.1255 OF 2019

ORDER:

This Criminal Revision Case is filed under Sections 397 and 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure questioning the order dated 25.10.2019 in CrI.MP.No.2957 of 2019 on the file of the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Alair, in dismissing the application filed by the petitioner for release of his vehicle i.e., Water Tanker bearing No.AP-36-X-9681, which was seized by the police in Crime No.45 of 2019 of Motakondur P.S., Rachakonda, Nalgonda District, for the offences punishable under Sections 336 and 188 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosive Substance Act.

The facts in issue are that the petitioner's vehicle i.e., Water Tanker bearing No.AP-36-X-9681, along with other vehicles was seized by the police along with the accused persons while the same is being used in illegal blasting being conducted in a quarry in Survey No.243, Kondapur Village outskirts, Motakondur Mandal, and Crime No.45 of 2019 of Motakondur Police Station, Rachakonda, Nalgonda District, was registered for the aforesaid offences. The petitioner claiming to be the owner of the said vehicle filed CrI.MP.No.2957 of 2019 in Crime No.45 of 2019 before the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Alair, seeking interim custody of the vehicle. By the aforesaid order dated 25.10.2019, the learned Magistrate rejected the said application. Challenging the same, the present revision is filed.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is owner of the said vehicle having purchased the same from Sriram City Union Finance, Bhongir, Yadadri District and the said vehicle is under hypothecation with the Financier and the Financier of the said vehicle has issued proof of Ownership Certificate and letter stating that they have no objection if the vehicle is released in favour of the petitioner as per law. It is also contented that the petitioner is not the accused in the above crime and her vehicle was used in the above blasting without her knowledge. It is further contended that there is every possibility of the vehicle getting damaged, if it is kept exposed to air, sun and rain, if it is kept in the custody of police or Court.

Learned Additional Public Prosecutor though opposed the revision, but did not dispute the ownership of the vehicle.

In **Surenderbhai Ambalal Desai v. State of Gujarat**¹, the Apex Court has laid down that in case of vehicles seized during investigation, they should not be allowed to deteriorate by being kept unused and unattended in the premises of the Police Stations. Therefore, the vehicles have to be entrusted to the interim custody of the petitioner subject to appropriate conditions.

Since there is no dispute with regard to the ownership of the vehicle and having regard to the principles of law laid down by the Apex Court in the decision stated supra, I am inclined to grant interim custody of the vehicle, Water Tanker bearing No.AP-36-X-9681, seized in Crime No.45 of 2019 of Motakondur Police Station,

¹ (2002)10 SCC 283

Rachakonda, Nalgonda District, in favour of the petitioner on the following terms.

- (i) The petitioner shall execute a personal bond for Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakh only) with one surety for a like sum to the satisfaction of the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Alair, Nalgonda District.
- (ii) The petitioner shall give an undertaking to produce the said vehicle as and when required either by the Investigating Agency or the Court and also give an undertaking that she will not alienate, encumber or alter the physical features of the vehicle.

Accordingly, this Criminal Revision Case is disposed of.

Miscellaneous applications, if any, pending shall stand closed.

(G. SRI DEVI, J)

20th November 2019
RRB