

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 21.09.2020

CORAM

THE HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE P.N. PRAKASH

CrI.R.C.No.700 of 2020

Ajay @ Ajithkumar

...Petitioner/Petitioner

.Vs.

The State, Rep by the Inspector of Police
Nagore Police Station
Nagapattinam District.
Crime No.385 of 2020)

...Respondent/Respondent

Criminal Revision filed under Section 397 r/w 401 Cr.P.C.,
praying to set aside the order passed by the learned District
and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, dated 31.7.2020 made in
Cr.M.P.No.1992 of 2020 and allow the said petition by ordering
return of TATA ACE Vehicle bearing Registration No. TN-51-J-2522
to the petitioner.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Sounthar

For Respondent : Mrs.P.Kritika Kamal
Government Advocate
(CrI. Side)

O R D E R

This case is taken up through video conferencing.

2. This criminal revision has been filed seeking to set
aside the order dated 31.07.2020 passed in Cr.M.P.No.1992 of
2020 on the file of the District and Sessions Court,
Nagapattinam.

3. The petitioner is the owner of the Tractor (TATA ACE)
bearing Registration No.TN-51-J-2522, which was seized on
14.04.2020, while transporting half a unit of sand and a case
was registered in Crime No.385 of 2020 for the offences under
Section 379, 430 IPC and Section 21(1) of Mines & Minerals
(Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. The petitioner filed
CrI.M.P.No.1992 of 2020 before the District and Sessions Court,
Nagapattinam, under Section 451 Cr.P.C. for interim custody of
the vehicle, which was dismissed on 31.07.2020, challenging

which, the petitioner has preferred the present revision petition.

4. Heard Mr.S.Sounthar, learned counsel for the petitioner and Mrs.P.Kritika Kamal, learned Government Advocate (Crl. Side) appearing for the respondent/State.

5. It is seen that the seizure was effected on 14.04.2020 and the vehicle is in the police station open to sun and rain.

6. Taking into consideration the aforesaid facts and in view of the guidelines given by the Supreme Court in *Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai Vs. State of Gujarat* reported in (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 (TATA ACE Tractor) bearing Registration No. TN-51-J-2522 to the petitioner within a period of 7 days from the date of compliance of the below mentioned condition Nos.(i) to (iii) :

- (i) The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- 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, Nagapattinam, as non-refundable deposit;
- (ii) The petitioner shall execute a personal bond for a sum of Rs.50,000/- with two sureties each, for a like sum to the satisfaction of the District and Sessions Court, 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 Court, Nagapattinam; and
- (vii) The petitioner is also directed to participate in the enquiry to be conducted by the respondent.

Petition relating to return of R.C. Book for any purpose in the future, may be filed before the District and Sessions Court, Nagapattinam, who may consider the same on merits, though this order has been passed by the High Court.

7. It is seen that the copy of the R.C book was not filed along with the typedset of papers filed in support of this revision petition. Hence, the learned District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, shall verify the same before granting custody of the vehicle to the petitioner.

8. This petition is allowed in the above terms and the order dated 31.07.2020 passed in CrI.M.P.No.1992 of 2020 on the file of the District and Sessions Court, Nagapattinam, is set aside.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

// True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The District and Sessions Judge,
Nagapattinam
2. The Tahsildar, Nagapattinam.
3. The Inspector of Police,
Nagore Police Station
Nagapattinam District.
4. The Public Prosecutor,
Madras High Court, Chennai - 600 104.

CrI.R.C.No.700 of 2020

rr ii (03/11/2020)