



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 27.02.2020

CORAM

WEB COPY

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE **T.KRISHNAVALLI**

CrI.R.C(MD)No.159 of 2020

Ravi Sathaiah

... Petitioner

Vs.

State Rep. by
The Inspector of Police,
Aravayal Police Station,
Sivagangai District.
(Crime No.108 of 2019)

... Respondent

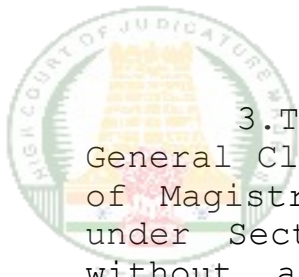
Prayer : This Criminal Revision has been filed under Section 397 r/w 401 of Criminal Procedure Code, to call for the records pertaining to the order, dated 16.12.2019 passed by the Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai in CrI.M.P.No.3610 of 2019 in Crime No.108 of 2019 on the file of the respondent police and set aside the same by allowing the above Criminal Revision Petition and further direct the respondent police to return the vehicle bearing Registration No.TN-65-F-5037 Tractor to the revision petitioner.

For Petitioner	: Mr.G.Thiruvarutselvam
For Respondent	: Mr.A.P.G.Ohm Chairma Prabhu Government Advocate (CrI.side)

O R D E R

The petitioner claims to be the owner of the Tractor with Trailer, bearing Registration No.TN-65-F-5037. According to the petitioner, the alleged vehicle was seized by the Village Administrative Officer on 01.12.2019 and handed over to the respondent police. The respondent police registered a case in Crime No.108 of 2019 for the offence under Section 21(4) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Seeking return of the said vehicle, the petitioner filed a petition before the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai, for interim custody. The learned Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai, by order dated 16.12.2019 has dismissed the same. Challenging the said order, the petitioner is before this Court with this petition.

2.Heard the learned counsel appearing on either side and perused the materials available on record.



3.The grievance of the petitioner is that as per the General Clauses Act, the Special Court can exercise all the powers of Magistrate, so the Special Court can entertain the petition under Sections 451 and 457 of Cr.P.C. But, the special Court without analyzing the G.O on which it was constituted, has rejected the application. Further, it is well settled that during the pendency of confiscation proceedings, the vehicle needs to be returned to the person, who is entitled to have. This return will have no impact on the confiscation proceeding, as the confiscation proceeding is an independent proceeding.

4.In view of the above, this Criminal Revision is allowed and the order of the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai in Cr.M.P.No.3610 of 2019, dated 16.12.2019, is set aside and the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai, is directed to return the vehicle to the petitioner subject to the confiscation proceedings on the following conditions:-

(a)The petitioner shall produce the original Registration Certificate of the vehicle;

(b)The petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty thousand only) to the credit of Crime No.108 of 2019 on the file of the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Sivagangai, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order;

(c)The petitioner shall not make any alteration of the vehicle;

(d)The petitioner shall produce the same before the Court as an when required until final order is passed in the confiscation proceedings.

5.The Authority under the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act may proceed with the confiscation proceedings and the petitioner shall obey any order that may be passed in the said proceeding by the authority.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AS)

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

vsd



To

1.The Principal Sessions Judge,
Sivagangai.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Aravayal Police Station,
Sivagangai District.

3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to M/s.S.SANJAY, Advocate (SR-8757[F] dated 27/02/2020)

Cr1.R.C(MD)No.159 of 2020

svn(CO)

TR(13.03.2020) 3P 5C