



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14.07.2020

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.R.SWAMINATHAN

W.P. (MD)No.7555 of 2020

V.Sivakumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Revenue Divisional Officer,
Revenue Divisional Office,
Pudukkottai,
Pudukkottai District.
2. The Assistant Director,
Mines and Minerals Department,
Pudukkottai,
Pudukkottai District.
3. The Assistant Geologist,
Geology and Mining Department,
Pudukkottai,
Pudukkottai District.
4. The Inspector of Police,
Gandharvakottai police station,
Gandharvakottai,
Pudukkottai District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to release the vehicle(Tipper Lorry) bearing registration No.TN-67AR2228, Chassis No.MB1G3DYC5CRBF5310 to the petitioner by considering the petitioner's representation dated 03.07.2020.

For Petitioner : Mr.G.Mathavan

For Respondents : Mr.M.Rajarajan,
Government Advocate.

* * *



O R D E R

Heard the learned counsel on either side. With their consent, this writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

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2.The petition mentioned vehicle belongs to the petitioner. The same was seized in connection with the alleged illegal transportation of mineral.

3.The learned Government Advocate fairly states that till date no First Information Report has been registered and that the vehicle has not been produced before the jurisdictional Court. The enquiry in this regard is still pending.

4. The petitioner's counsel gives an undertaking that the petitioner will see to it that the vehicle is not involved in any other offences of similar nature. The vehicle will be produced before the authority or the Court concerned as and when required. The vehicle will not be alienated.

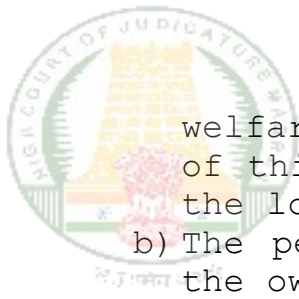
5. The submission of the learned counsel for the petitioner is placed on record. If the undertaking given before this Court is breached, the benefit of this order will stand recalled and the vehicle in question will be taken back to custody and it will be released only after getting orders from this Court on such terms as this Court may deem it fit to impose.

6.I am of the view that keeping the petition mentioned vehicle in the custody of the respondents is not going to serve any purpose. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the decision reported in (2002) 10 SCC 283 (Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai and Others V. State of Gujarat) has held as follows:-

"17.In our view, whatever be the situation, it is of no use to keep such seized vehicles at the police stations for a long period. It is for the Magistrate to pass appropriate orders immediately by taking appropriate bond and guarantee as well as security for return of the said vehicles, if required at any point of time. This can be done pending hearing of applications for return of such vehicles."

7.Therefore, the respondents are directed to release the said vehicle subject to the following conditions.

- a) The petitioner shall take a Demand Draft for a sum of Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in the name of the District Collector, Pudukkottai District. The District Collector will also spend the same immediately on some



welfare measures and send the user certificate to the Registry of this Court. The petitioner shall not alienate or encumber the lorry till the proceedings are completed.

b) The petitioner shall produce all the documents pertaining to the ownership of the seized vehicle.

c) This order for release of the vehicle can be pressed into service by the petitioner only if the vehicle is not in the custody of the criminal Court. If the vehicle is in the custody of concerned Criminal Court of appropriate jurisdiction, then, option is given to the petitioner to approach the concerned Judicial Magistrate to get release of the vehicle, by filing necessary application in the manner known to law.

d) As and when the respondents call for the vehicle for enquiry, the petitioner has to produce the vehicle in question and he shall cooperate with the enquiry to be conducted by the respondents.

8. Upon completion of these formalities, the respondents shall release the vehicle forthwith without any delay. If this undertaking given by the petitioner is breached, the petitioner will not be entitled to interim release of the vehicle in future.

9. This writ petition stands allowed on these terms. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS)

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

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Note : In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate/litigant concerned.

To:

1. The District Collector,
Pudukkottai District.

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>



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Revenue Divisional Office,
Pudukkottai,
Pudukkottai District.
3. The Assistant Director,
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Gandharvakottai police station,
Gandharvakottai,
Pudukkottai District.

W.P. (MD) No. 7555 of 2020

14.07.2020

SPU (10.07.2020) 4P 6C