



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14.08.2020

CORAM

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.R.SWAMINATHAN**

W.P. (MD)No.8723 of 2020

T.Kumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Revenue Divisional Officer,  
Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar District.

2.The Assistant Director,  
Mines and Minerals Department,  
Virudhunagar District.

3.The Inspector of Police,  
Thiruchuli Police Station,  
Virudhunagar District.

... Respondents

**Prayer:** Writ petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to release the petitioner's vehicles namely Tipper Lorry bearing Registration No.TN-05-J-2597 and JCB bearing Registration No.TN-67-BW-4444 seized by the third respondent Police, by considering the petitioner's representation dated 18.07.2020, within time limit that may be fixed by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Murugan

For Respondents : Mr.C.Ramar

Additional Government Pleader

**O R D E R**

Heard the learned counsel on either side.

2. The petition mentioned vehicles were seized in connection with the alleged illegal transportation of sand.

3. The learned Additional Government Pleader states that even though the criminal case has been registered, the vehicles in question are yet to be produced before the jurisdictional Court. The case is still under investigation. I am of the view that so long as the vehicles have not been produced before the Jurisdictional Court, the Writ Court will always have the power to direct for the release of the vehicles.



4. The petitioner's counsel on the other hand would contend that the case on hand is a false one and that the petitioner is a Social Activist and that is why, the false case has been foisted against him. The petitioner's counsel gives an undertaking that the petitioner will see to it that the vehicles are not involved in any other offences of similar nature. The vehicles will be produced before the authority or the Court concerned as and when required. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner states that the vehicles 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 vehicles 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 vehicles 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. The learned Government Advocate filed a counter, in which, the petitioner's previous conduct has been brought out. The petitioner's counsel states that the original RC books are with the Financier. He further states that he has already paid a sum of Rs.30,000/- at the time of obtaining anticipatory bail. Taking note of the same, I am inclined to show some indulgence while fixing the quantum of cost. The petitioner is permitted to make available photo copies of the RC Books. Therefore, the respondents are directed to release the said vehicles even on production of photo copies of the seized vehicles, subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The petitioner is directed to pay a sum of Rs.70,000/- (Rupees Seventy Thousand only) in favour of the Officer-in-Charge, High Court Legal Services Committee, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai in S.B.A/c.No.496037387, IFSC : IDIB000H040, Indian



Bank, High Court Branch, Madurai. It will be a non refundable payment. The Registrar (Judicial) is directed to spend the amount towards feeding the members of the Narikuravar Community living at Sakkimangalam Village, Madurai or further benefit of the Advocates' Clerks Associated with the District Court in Madurai District.

- b) The petitioner shall not alienate or encumber the vehicles in question till the proceedings are completed.
- c) As and when the respondents call for the vehicles for enquiry, the petitioner has to produce the vehicles 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 vehicles forthwith and without any delay. If this undertaking given by the petitioner is breached, the petitioner will not be entitled to interim release of the vehicles in future. The Writ Petition is allowed accordingly. There shall be no order as to costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(Crl. Side)

// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

tsg

**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 Revenue Divisional Officer,  
Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar District.

2.The Assistant Director,  
Mines and Minerals Department,  
Virudhunagar District.



3.The Inspector of Police,  
Thiruchuli Police Station,  
Virudhunagar District.

Copy to

1.The Registrar (Judicial),  
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,  
Madurai.

2. The Officer-in-Charge,  
High Court Legal Services Committee,  
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai

+1 CC to M/s.GP ( SR-14201[F] dated 17/08/2020 )

W.P. (MD) No.8723 of 2020

14.08.2020

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