



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 04.09.2020

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.R.SWAMINATHAN

W.P.(MD)No.10505 of 2020

Palchamy

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The District Collector,
Office of the District Collector,
Ramanathapuram District.

2.The Assistant Director,
Department of Mines and Minerals,
Ramanathapuram District.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Keelakarai Police Station,
Ramanathapuram District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondent to release the petitioner tractor bearing registration No.TN 60 D 6022 with trailer bearing Registration No.TN 60 F 8358 from the custody of the respondents in accordance with law within the time stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Alagumani

For Respondents : Mr.M.Rajarajan

Additional Government Pleader

O R D E R

Heard the learned counsel on either side. By consent of both parties, this writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

2. The petitioner seeks release of the petition mentioned vehicle.

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



Government Pleader further states that the petitioner is having two previous cases of the same nature.

4. The petitioner's counsel thereupon submits that the petitioner will file an affidavit before this Court stating that he will not involve himself or the vehicle in question in a case of similar nature in future.

5. 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 learned counsel appearing for the petitioner states that the vehicle will not be alienated.

6. 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.

7. 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."

8. It appears from the material on record that what was transported was the soil removed while digging the well in the petitioner's patta land. This is not a case where poromboke land or river sand is involved. I am, therefore, inclined to show indulgence.

9. The respondents are directed to release the said vehicle subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The petitioner shall not alienate or encumber the vehicle in question till the proceedings are completed.
- b) The petitioner shall produce all the documents pertaining to the ownership of the seized vehicle.



c) 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.

10. 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. The Writ Petition is allowed accordingly. There shall be no order as to costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CO)

// 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,
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- 2.The Assistant Director,
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- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Keelakarai Police Station,
Ramanathapuram District.

+1 CC to M/s.GP (SR-16102[F] dated 07/09/2020)

W.P. (MD)No.10505 of 2020

04.09.2020

scr(CO)

TR(11.09.2020) 3P 5C