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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 05.10.2021

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

W.P. No.21180 of 2021

and

W.M.P.No.22465 of 2021

Summi Digital Infrastructure Private Limited,
Represented by Mr. K. Kumaresan,
Reliance Jio Infocorn Ltd,
A-1 Towers, No.89-91,
Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai,
Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

... Petitioner

Versus

1. The Commissioner of Police,
Salem City,
Salem.
- 2.The Inspector of Police,
Sooramangalam Police Station,
Salem District.

...Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 Constitution of India, to issue Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondents to provide adequate police protection to the petitioner Company and its staff and subordinates to erect, commissioning of equipments and to radiate the transmission tower at the lease site namely Site ID No.I-TN-SALEM-ENB-0375 situated at land admeasuring 875 (25x35) (Eight Hundred Seventy Five Only) sq.ft. Southern side out of 0.20 cent as equal to 8732 sq.ft. land area at comprised in Salem District, Salem Taluk, Meyyanur Village, Survey No.7/4 situated within the Registration District of Salem, Sub Registration District of Suramangalam.



For Petitioner : Mr.A.M.Venkata Krishnan

For Respondents : Mr.A.Damodaran

Additional Public Prosecutor

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ORDER

(This case has been heard through video conference)

This petition has been filed for the issuance of a Writ of mandamus, directing the respondents to provide adequate police protection to the petitioner Company and its staff and subordinates to erect, commissioning of equipments and to radiate the transmission tower at the lease site namely Site ID No.I-TN-SALEM-ENB-0375 situated at land admeasuring 875 (25x35) (Eight Hundred Seventy Five Only) sq.ft. Southern side out of 0.20 cent as equal to 8732 sq.ft. land area at comprised in Salem District, Salem Taluk, Meyyanur Village, Survey No.7/4 situated within the Registration District of Salem, Sub Registration District of Suramangalam.

2. The case of the petitioner is that the petitioner is engaged in the business of Operation and Maintenance of Mobile phone towers across India for all the mobile phone operators/service providers providing telecom services. For the said purpose, cell phone tower is going to be erected. The petitioner had also entered into a lease agreement with the owner of the property and had taken steps to install the cell phone tower. Already, the Government of Tamil Nadu has granted exemption to all the Telecom companies to install the cell phone towers by virtue of Government Order passed in G.O.Ms.No.2, dated 01.04.2002.

3. When the petitioner attempted to erect the cell phone tower, some people with vested interest claiming to be neighbours have been causing hindrance and preventing the workers from carrying out the construction work. In this regard, the petitioner gave a complaint to the 2nd respondent on 15.07.2021, seeking police protection. However, the 2nd respondent had not acted upon the said complaint and therefore, the present Petition has been filed.

4. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would



submit that the issue involved in this petition is covered by the earlier Judgments of this Court. The learned counsel brought to the notice of this Court the order passed by this Court in CrI.O.P.No.16618 of 2018 dt.28.06.2018.

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5. It will be appropriate to extract the relevant portions of the order in CrI.O.P.No.16618 of 2018, which is extracted hereunder:-

"2.The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner's company had the contract agreement for installation of cell phone tower with M/s.Indus Towers Limited, a company registered under the provisions of Indian Companies Act, 1956. It is further submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that whenever the petitioner's company attempted to erect transmission cell phone tower, publics are causing interference. The learned counsel for the petitioner also submitted that by order dated 05.03.2015, the Honourable First Bench of this Court, in W.P.Nos.24976 of 2008 and etc., batch, held that because of the advancement in the science, no one has prevented to erect cell phone towers. It is also submitted that the petitioner has given a complaint dated 24.02.2016 to the first respondent police seeking police protection, for which C.S.R.No.42 of 2016 and since the same has not been considered so far, he has come up with the present petition for the relief stated supra.

3.Heard the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent.

4.Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, the petitioner is directed to send a fresh representation to the respondent and on receipt of the same, the respondent is directed to consider the representation to be submitted by the petitioner and pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of copy of this order.

5.With the above directions, this Criminal Original Petition is disposed of."



6. This Court has consistently taken the view that no one can be prevented from erecting the cell phone towers on a mere apprehension about the effect of radiation from the cell phone tower. The apprehension does not have a scientific backing. Till a positive finding is given in this regard, cell phone towers cannot be prevented to be installed on mere apprehensions.

7. For the reasons stated above, there shall be a direction to the second respondent police to provide police protection to the petitioner for erection of the cell phone tower. The second respondent police shall ensure that the entire process goes on in a smooth manner, without giving raise to any law and order problem.

8. This writ petition is disposed of with the above direction. No costs. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

sp/rpp

To

1. The Commissioner of Police,
Salem City,
Salem.
2. The Inspector of Police,
Sooramangalam Police Station,
Salem District.
3. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

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GP(CO)
SB(10/11/2021)