IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 22.11.2021

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

W.P.NO.24821 OF 2021

G.Madhurambal ...Petitioner

Vs

1. The Inspector General of Registration,
   100, Santhome High Road,
   Chennai - 600 028.

2. The Sub Registrar,
   T.Nagar, SRO,
   Registration District of Chennai South,
   No.9, Jeenis Road,
   Saidapet,Chennai - 600 015.

3. The Secretary-cum-Co-ordinator,
   Administrator Committee of Disc Assets Lead (India) Ltd.,
   119, Canal Bank Road,
   CIT Nagar,Chennai - 600 035. ...Respondents

Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 & 2 to enter the Sale Certificate dated 07.04.2021 issued and forwarded by the third respondent in Book No.1 under Section 89 of the Registration Act, 1908, in line with the order dated 22.03.2021 made in W.P.Nos.8084 & 18371 of 2017 passed by this Court, without insisting the stamp duty.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Krishnan

For Respondents : Mr.Yogesh Kannadasan
Special Government Pleader
(for R1 & R2)

O R D E R

This Writ Petition has been filed to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 & 2 to enter the Sale Certificate dated 07.04.2021 issued and forwarded by the third respondent in Book No.1 under Section 89 of the Registration Act, 1908, in line with the order dated 22.03.2021 passed in W.P.Nos.8084 & 18371 of 2017 by this Court, without insisting on the stamp duty.

2. Heard Mr.P.Krishnan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and Mr.Yogesh Kannadasan, learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondents 1 and 2.

3. The case of the petitioner is that the petitioner's husband died on 25.08.2021 leaving the petitioner and her daughter as his legal heirs. One M/s.Disc Assets Lead (India) Ltd., dealt with investments and received funds from several investors for its business, and committed default in re-payment. As ordered by this Court, the third respondent was appointed as Administrator Committee and the third respondent was permitted to deposit the sale proceeds in a Special Joint Account. The petitioner's husband being bidder in the auction sale, was declared as successful bidder in respect of the properties in the auction held on 06.03.2020. The petitioner's husband paid entire sale price, after deducting the amount from TDS as per Section 194 (I)(A) of the Income Tax Act. Accordingly, the third respondent had issued sale certificate dated 07.04.2021 in favour of the petitioner's husband. It was forwarded by the third respondent to the second respondent on 07.04.2021 for making entries in Book-I as contemplated under Section 89 of the Registration Act, 1908. However, the second respondent refused to register the Sale Certificate and kept the same pending.

4. In this regard, Mr.P.Krishnan, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the Sale Certificate was presented before the second respondent only for the purpose of filing it in Book No-I as per Section 89 of the Registration Act, 1908. Therefore, it does not require any stamp duty and registration fees.

5. The requirements for the payment of stamp duty under Article 18 of the Stamp Act and the payment of the Registration fees would arise only if presented the original Sale Certificate for registration under Article 23 of the Registration Act, 1908. In support of his contention he relied upon the judgment of this Court, in W.P.No.34249 of 2018, dated 08.11.2021, wherein held as follows:-

> 6. In support of his contention, he relied upon the Judgment reported in 2007(5) SCC 745 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that "when an auction purchaser derives title on confirmation of sale in his favour, and a sale certificate is issued evidencing such sale and title, no further deed of transfer from the Court is contemplated or required and that Sale certificate issued by the Court or an Officer authorized by the Court, does not require registration. Section 17(2)(xii) of the Registration Act, 1908 specifically provides that a certificate of

sale granted to any purchaser of any property sold by a public auction by a Civil or Revenue Officer does not fall under the category of non-testamentary documents which require registration under the Act."

7. He also relied upon the Judgment reported in 2018(3) TNCJ 541 MB N.Naresh Kumar -vs- The Inspector General of Registration, Chennai 28 and another, the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court held as follows:

> "15.Therefore, the refusal by the Sub Registrar to file sale certificate issued by the Recovery Officer by making necessary entries in the Book in accordance with sub-section (4) of Section 89 of the Registration Act is not justified. The copy of the sale certificate thus filed in Book No.1 which contains all the relevant details and all that is the Sub Registrar is required to do is to file a copy of the certificate in Book No.1 and nothing more.
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> 16.In B.Arvind Kumar Vs.Government of India and others reported in JT 2007 (8) SC 602, it is held that a property sold in public auction pursuant to an order of the Court and once the sale is confirmed it becomes absolute and the title vests with the auction purchaser. The subsequent sale certificate issued to the purchaser is the evidence of such title which does not require registration under Section 17 (2) (xii) of the Registration Act. In the case on hand also the property was purchased in public auction on 16.05.2008 and the sale certificate was issued on 31.08.2008. Therefore, the appellant/purchaser automatically becomes title holder of the property by virtue of the sale certificate. The payment of stamp duty on the sale certificate is not warranted as it is only a sale certificate issued which has to be filed or scanned in Book No.1 as per Section 89(4) of the Registration Act.
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> 17.The payment of stamp duty perhaps may arise only when the appellant wants to deal with the property by selling it. As long as the sale certificate remains as it is, it is not compulsorily registrable. If the appellant uses the document for any

other purpose, then the requirement of stamp duty etc., would arise. Hence, the plea of the appellant is well within the statutory powers. Section 89 (4) contemplates only filing of the sale certificates and therefore, the question of delay or laches on the part of the appellant does not arise. The dismissal of the writ petition on the ground of delay and payment of stamp duty therefor does not arise and therefore, cannot be sustained. Accordingly, the order passed in the writ petition is set aside and the appeal is allowed. No costs."

8. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court concluded that as long as the sale certificate remains as it is, it is not compulsorily registrable. If the documents uses for any other purpose, it requires stamp duty. The Section 89(4) contemplates only filing of the sale certificates and therefore, the question of stamp duty does not arise. In this regard, it is also relevant to rely upon the orders passed in S.L.P.Nos.29752-29754 of 2019 dated 05.01.2021 Esjaypee Impex Pvt. Ltd., -vs- Asst. General Manager and Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held as follows:

"14. We are the view that the mandate of law in terms of Section 17(2)(xii) read with Section 89(4) of the Registration Act, 1908 only required the Authorized Officer of the Bank under the SARFAESI Act to hand over the duly validated Sale Certificate to the Auction Purchaser with a copy forwarded to the Registering Authorities to be filed in Book I as per Section 89 of the Registration Act."

9. The provision under Section 89(4) is clear that "Every Revenue Officer granting a certificate of sale to the purchaser of immovable property sold by public auction shall send a copy of the certificate to the registering officer within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the whole or any part of the immovable property comprised in the certificate is situate, and such officer shall file the copy in his Book No. 1. State Amendments Andhra Pradesh: For sub-section (5) of section 89 substitute as under: "(5) An officer empowered to grant a certificate of sale of immovable property under the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative

Societies Act, 1964 or the rules made thereunder shall send a copy of such certificate to the registering officer within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the whole or any part of the immovable property comprised in such certificate is situate, and such registering officer shall file the copy in his Book No. 1."

10. Therefore, the sale certificate do not operate as a conveyance of the property. It is also relevant to extract the Rule 200(1) of the Civil Rules of Practice and Circular Orders:

> "200(1). Section 89(2) of the Indian Registration Act, 1908 (Central Act XVI of 1908) provides that the every Court granting a certificate under Rule 94 of Order XXI of the Code, shall send a copy of such certificate to the registering officer within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the whole or any part of the immovable property comprised in such certificate is situate and such officer shall file the copy in his Book No.1. The law, therefore now provides, through the direct action of the Civil Court and of the Registering Officer for the registration of a copy of the certificate of sale. It is no longer necessary to register the certificate itself. Such certificates do not operate as a conveyance of the property to which they relate."

6. He also relied upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in Miscellaneous Application Diary No.19262 of 2021 in SLP(C) 29752 of 2019. Thereby, clarified that,

> The direction has already been passed on 05.01.2021 for the duly validated certificate to be issued to the auction purchaser with a copy forwarded to the registering authorities to be filed in Book I as per Section 89 of the Registration Act. We may note that the effect of filing of the copies under the said Section 89 has the same effect as registration and obviates the requirement of any further action.

7. As such when the purchaser goes for the registration of the original sale certificate issued by the Court Officer, Article 18 of the Indian Stamp Act would be attracted and stamp duty is to be paid as per Article 23 of the Registration Act treating it as conveyance namely auction purchase value of the property. But when a copy of the sale certificate presented

before the second respondent not for the purpose of registration but only for purpose of filing it by the second respondent in his office as contemplated under Section 89(4) of the Registration Act, 1908. Therefore, the second respondent cannot refuse to file a copy of the sale certificate by demanding payment of stamp duty and registration fees to file the same in Book No-I, as contemplated under Section 89(4) of the Registration Act, 1908.

8. In view of the above, the second respondent is directed to enter the sale certificate dated 07.04.2021 issued by the third respondent in Book No-I as contemplated under Section 89 of the Registration Act, 1908 without insisting any stamp duty within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

9. With the above direction, this writ petition stands allowed. No costs.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CO)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

1. The Inspector General of Registration,
   100, Santhome High Road,
   Chennai - 600 028.

2. The Sub Registrar,
   T.Nagar, SRO,
   Registration District of Chennai South,
   No.9, Jeenis Road,
   Saidapet,Chennai - 600 015.

3. The Secretary-cum-Co-ordinator,
   Administrator Committee of Disc Assets Lead (India) Ltd.,
   119, Canal Bank Road,
   CIT Nagar, Chennai - 600 035.

+1cc to the Government Pleader, S.R.No.60713

W.P.No.24821 of 2021

KSM(CO)
RGA(10/12/2021)