

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.10357 of 2022

Sipahi Yadav son of Ramashankar Yadav, resident of Village- Chandaraha
Ward No. 13, P.S.- Bathuriya, District- West Champaran.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Principle Secretary, Registration, Excise and Prohibition Department, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The Principle Secretary, Registration, Excise and Prohibition Department, Government of Bihar, Patna.
3. The Collector-Cum- District Magistrate, East Champaran.
4. The Superintendent of Police, East Champaran.
5. The Superintendent of Excise, East Champaran.

... .. Respondent/s

(The proceedings of the Court are being conducted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice /Hon'ble Judges through Video Conferencing from their residential offices/residences. Also, the Advocates and the Staffs joined the proceedings through Video Conferencing from their residences /offices.)

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s	:	Mr.Abhishek Kumar, Adv
For the Respondent/s	:	Mr.Vivek Prasad (GP 7)

CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S. KUMAR
ORAL JUDGMENT
(Per: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE S. KUMAR)

Date : 29-07-2022

Heard learned counsel for the parties.

Petitioner has prayed for the following relief(s):-

- (a) To issue an appropriate writ/order/direction, in the nature of writ of Mandamus directing the respondent Collector to release Mahindra Bolero vehicle bearing registration no. BR22P2093, which has been illegally seized by the S. I. in Adapur P. S. Case No. 167 of 2022 dated 6.6.2022 instituted for the offences under sections 30(a), 37 of the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act, 2016.
- (b) To grant any other relief or reliefs for which the petitioner is found to be entitled in the facts and circumstances of the case.

Allegation is recovery of 375 ml of illicit liquor from the seized vehicle.

Petitioner claims to be the owner of the said vehicle. It is further submitted that a meagre quantity of 375 ml of liquor has been recovered from the vehicle, as such, it cannot be inferred that the vehicle was used for transporting/carrying illicit liquor, nor it can be presumed that recovered illicit liquor was kept for sale/purchase/ trade purpose and it appears that same was kept for personal consumption.

In the facts and circumstances of the case, **the District Magistrate/Confiscating Officer concerned** is directed to provisionally release the vehicle of petitioner after due identification of ownership of the vehicle on production of ownership and registration papers with respect to vehicle in

question in his/her name and on furnishing adequate sureties to the satisfaction of District Magistrate / Confiscating Authority and undertaking.

The release shall be allowed within a period of 14 days from the date of submission of the sureties and the undertakings as stated above, which would however be subject to finalization of the confiscation proceeding.

Petitioner is also at liberty to get his/her vehicle released on payment of penalty in terms of Rule 12(A) inserted by amending Bihar Prohibition and Excise Rules, 2021.

With said observation and direction, this writ petition is disposed of.

(Sanjay Karol, CJ)

(S. Kumar, J)

ranjan/-

AFR/NAFR	
CAV DATE	
Uploading Date	
Transmission Date	