



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 07.08.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE **R. HEMALATHA**

Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

Selvakumar

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State Rep. by
the Inspector of Police,
Mayiladuthurai Police Station,
Mayiladuthurai District.
Crime No.289/2022

... Respondent

Prayer : Criminal Revision Case filed under Section 397 r/w. 401 of Criminal Procedure Code, to set aside the orders dated 19.12.2022 in Cr.M.P.No.4238 of 2022 on the file of the learned Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.Sakkarapani

For Respondent : Mr.R.Vinothraja, GA (Crl. Side)

ORDER

Page 1 of 8



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

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Challenging the orders, dated 19.12.2022 passed in Cr.M.P.No.4238 of 2022 by the learned Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, the present Criminal Revision is filed.

2. The revision petitioner is an accused in Crime No.289/2022 of Mayiladuthurai Police station, Mayiladuthurai for the offence punishable under Sections 379 IPC r/w. Section 21 (1) Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulations) Act, 1957 and his vehicle viz., Mahindra Bolero Pickup van bearing Registration No.TN 68 B 0194 was seized. He filed a petition in Cr.M.P.No.4238 of 2022 under Sections 451/457 of Cr.P.C., before the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, seeking interim custody of the said vehicle and the petition was dismissed by the learned Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam on 19.12.2022 on the ground that the vehicle was involved in illegal transportation of ½ unit of Savudu sand, aggrieved over which, the present revision case is filed.

3. Mr.V.Sakkarapani, learned counsel for the petitioner would



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

contend that the present petitioner is innocent and if the seized vehicle is kept in an open space the value of the vehicle would diminish over a period of time.

4. Mr.R.Vinothraja, learned Government Advocate (Crl. side) appearing for the respondent contended that the vehicle was used for illegal transportation of Savudu sand and if the vehicle is ordered to be returned, the accused may use the vehicle for committing similar offence. He therefore, sought for dismissal of the petition.

5. In this back drop, it is relevant to refer a decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai and others Vs. State of Gujarat*** reported in (2002) 10 SCC 283, in which it is held thus:

“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



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

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.

In case where the vehicle is not claimed by the accused, owner, or the insurance company or by third person, then such vehicle may be ordered to be auctioned by the Court. If the said vehicle is insured with the insurance company, then insurance company be informed by the Court to take possession of the vehicle, which is not claimed by the owner or a third person. If insurance Company fails to take possession the vehicles may be sold as per the direction of the Court. The Court would pass such order within a period of six months from the date of production of the said vehicle before the Court. In any case, before handing over possession of such vehicles, appropriate photographs of the said vehicle should be taken and detailed panchanama should be prepared.”

6. It is true that keeping the vehicle idle in an open space, would definitely impair the value of the vehicle over a period of time. As such, considering the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, this



Court is inclined to grant interim custody of the vehicle to the petitioner.

7. Accordingly, the Criminal Revision Case is allowed and the impugned order dated 19.12.2022 passed by the learned Principal District and Sessions Judge, Nagapattinam, in Cr.M.P.No.4238 of 2022 is set aside and the interim custody of the vehicle is given to the petitioner on the following conditions :

- i. The petitioner shall prove the ownership of his vehicle by producing R.C.Book and other relevant records;
- ii. The R.C. book shall be deposited in the Court and the Court shall issue certificate in this regard.
- iii. The petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs Only) before the trial Court.
- iv. The Court may prepare a panchanama in Judicial Form No.82 with regard to the vehicle bearing Registration No. TN 68 B 0194 and such panchanama can be used in evidence.
- v. The Court shall take photograph of the vehicle bearing



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

Registration No.TN 68 B 0194 and certify the same under Section 65B of the Central Act 1 of 1972 and such photographs may be used as secondary evidence.

- vi. The petitioner shall not alienate or encumber the vehicle in any manner whatsoever;
- vii.The petitioner shall give an undertaking that he would not use the vehicle for any illegal activities in future; and
- viii.The petitioner shall also produce the vehicle as and when required by the court below and by the respondent police.

07.08.2023

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-Speaking order
vum

To

1.The Principal District and Sessions Judge,

Page 6 of 8



Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

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Nagapattinam.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Mayiladuthurai Police Station,
Mayiladuthurai District.
3. The Section Officer,
Criminal Section, High Court,
Madras.



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Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

R. HEMALATHA, J.

vum

Crl.R.C.No.668 of 2023

07.08.2023