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W.P. No. 22046 of 2017

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 04.07.2023

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

W.P. No. 22046 of 2017

Venkatesappa

... Petitioner

-VS-

1. The District Revenue Officer
District Collector Office
Krishnagiri.
2. The Sub Collector
Sub Collector Office
Hosur, Krishnagiri District.
3. The Tahsildar
Taluk Office
Shoolagiri.
4. A.R.Harshavardhan Kumar
5. Nanjamma
6. M.Munichandra
7. Minor M.Dhillep
8. Minor M.Mala
9. Minor M.Sandeep
- 7 to 9 are represented by their father
and natural guardian Mr.Munichandra
- 10.Mahadevamma

... Respondents

Prayer:- Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, 1950, praying to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondents 1 to 3 herein to consider and pass orders on the Petitioner's representation dated 17.10.2016 in respect of cancellation of Patta issued in favour of fourth



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respondent relating to lands to an extent of 65.50 hectares comprised in Survey Nos. 159/1E, 160/1C and 160/10 situate at Bukkasagaram (Addagurikki) Village, Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri District within the time stipulated by the Court.

For Petitioner : Mr. R.Bharath Kumar

For Respondents : Mr. C.Jayaprakash
Government Advocate (RR1 to 3)
Mr. M.Ganesh (R4)
No appearance – RR5 to 10

ORDER

The writ petition has been filed for directing the Respondents 1 to 3 herein to consider and pass orders on the Petitioner's representation dated 17.10.2016 in respect of cancellation of Patta issued in favour of 4th respondent relating to lands to an extent of 65.50 hectares comprised in Survey Nos. 159/1E, 160/1C and 160/10 situate at Bukkasagaram (Addagurikki) Village, Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri District

2. The issues raised in the present writ petition were adjudicated by this Court in a batch of writ petitions in ***W.P.Nos.262 of 2018 & etc.***, batch, and a judgment was delivered on ***09.06.2023***. The relevant paragraphs of the judgment are extracted hereunder:



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“33. In view of the anomalous situation created on account of the inconsistency in dealing with the grievances of the aggrieved persons, this Court is inclined to pass the following orders:

- (1) The Commissioner of Land Administration is directed to issue orders to all the competent authorities under his control across the State of Tamil Nadu to maintain registers for entertaining the applications/ representations /appeals filed in a prescribed format by complying with the procedures under the Patta Pass Book Act, 1983 and the Rules in force.*
- (2) Every such application filed by the aggrieved persons are to be registered in the book of register and serial number has to be assigned in the order of seniority and such seniority assigned must be informed/communicated to the applicants/appellants.*
- (3) All the applications/appeals by the respective parties are to be taken up for hearing/enquiry in the order of seniority as far as possible and without causing any discrimination amongst the similarly placed applicants/appellants. Priority for hearing/enquiry is to be granted only if the applicant/appellant is able to establish that there is a genuine urgency, which is to be recorded by the Competent authority, while taking up the matter for hearing/enquiry. All other applications/appeals are to be heard and disposed of in the order of seniority.*



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(4) *An enquiry under the Patta Pass Book Act, 1983 is to be conducted by the competent authorities by following the procedures as contemplated under the Rules and by affording opportunity to the parties. The competent authorities shall refuse to grant unnecessary adjournments to the parties, who all are intending to prolong and protract the matter. Adjournments are to be granted on genuine grounds only by recording the reasons. Casual adjournments of hearing are to be avoided, which would cause prejudice to any one of the party.*

(5) *All applications / appeals are to be disposed of by the competent authorities within a prescribed time limits stipulated under the Government orders or by the Commissioner of Land Administration. In the event of no time limit, the authorities are expected to pass orders within a reasonable period of time i.e., within a period of six months.*

(6) *The respondents are directed to relegate the parties to the Civil Court of Law, if there is any disputed facts regarding civil rights between the parties exists.*

(7) *The respondents are directed not to entertain applications under the Patta Pass Book Act, if the Civil Suits between the parties are pending before the Court of Law. In such circumstances, the applicants/appellants may be granted liberty to approach the competent authorities only after resolving the*



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issues before the Civil Court of Law. The Authorities are directed to keep the revenue proceedings in abeyance till such time the civil disputes reach finality between the parties.

(8) The Commissioner of Revenue Administration is directed to issue consolidated instructions/circular to all the subordinate officials based on the orders passed by this Court and ensure proper implementation to make the public administration more efficient, since it is a Constitutional mandate.

(9) The Higher Authorities are directed to conduct periodical review to ensure that the procedures are followed scrupulously and in the event of any lapses, negligence or dereliction of duty on the part of the authorities, appropriate disciplinary actions are to be initiated under the Service Rules.

(10) The competent authorities are directed to pass speaking orders and communicate the same to all the parties concerned in the manner prescribed under the Rules of Public Administration.”

3. In view of the fact that the case of the petitioner is also similar to that of the cases (cited *supra*), the case of the petitioner is also to be considered on the same line.



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4. Accordingly, this Writ Petition stands disposed of. No costs.

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kak/skr

Index : Yes

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S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.

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