



WEB COPY



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 13.10.2023

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE J.NISHA BANU

and

THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE N.MALA

W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

and W.M.P.No.29454 of 2023

K.Muruganantham

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Chairman

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,

No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai~600 032.

2.State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

No.9, Jeenis Road

Saidapet, Chennai 15

3.The District Collector

Namakkal District

Namakkal

4. The Assistant Director

Department of Geology and Mining

Namakkal.

... Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the 4th respondent to permit the petitioner herein

Page No:1/6



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

to carry on quarrying operation in the land measuring 0.99 Hectares, comprised in Survey No.373/6C, Konnaiyar Village, Thiruchengode Taluk, Namakkal District by issuing necessary transport permits until the date of expiry of environmental clearance obtained from the District Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide Lr.No.DEIAA-NMK-TN/F.No.259/Mines/05/E.C.No.03/2018 dated 07.12.2018 i.e., 08.01.2024, without insisting environment clearance appraised by SEIAA.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.P.Sengottuvel
Senior Counsel
for Mr. P.S. Prabhu

For Respondents : Mrs. Shanmugavalli Sekar for R1
Standing Counsel
Mr. K.Srinivasamurthy for R2
Senior Panel Counsel
Mrs. Mythreye Chandru for R3&R4
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by J.Nisha Banu,J.)

The petitioner was granted quarry lease on 09.01.2019 and the same was granted for a period of five (5) years from 09.01.2019 to 08.01.2024. The Environmental clearance for the said project was granted by the District Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA). Therefore, the clearance granted to the petitioner is valid upto 08.01.2024.

Page No:2/6



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

WEB COPY

2.The petitioner submitted his application for consent to operate under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the same came to be granted by the 1st respondent vide Proceedings dated 19.12.2018 and renewed vide Consent Order dated 11.04.2023. In the meantime, the DEIAA was abolished and the power was vested with the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority. An order was passed by the National Green Tribunal in O.A.No.142 of 2022 directing all clearances given by DEIAA to be re~appraised by SEAC/SEIAA. This order was passed on 07.12.2022.

3.On account of the fact the re~appraisal was not done by the SEIAA, the consent was not renewed.

4. On the above submissions, Mr.K.Srinivasamurthy, learned Senior Panel Counsel appearing for the SEIAA submits that it will take minimum period of three (3) weeks for re-appraisal.



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

WEB COPY

5. In the facts and circumstances of the case and considering the submission of the petitioner that the 4th respondent refused to issue transport permit for the petitioner's quarry despite holding a valid Environment Clearance as on date and necessary Consent to Operate from the 1st respondent, we permit the petitioner to quarry till 08.01.2024 for which he has a valid consent from the Pollution Control Board as well as from DEIAA. We make it clear that all the conditions stipulated by the Pollution Control Board and DEIAA must be strictly complied with.

6. If the petitioner applies for extension of lease, this order will not enure in his favour, for its co-terminus with the DEIAA approval i.e. till 08.01.2024. The petitioner will not be entitled to quarry after the said date without clearance from the Pollution Control Board and SEIAA and a valid lease.



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

7. This writ petition is disposed of on the above terms. No costs.

Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

(J.N.B.,J.) (N.M.,J.)
13.10.2023

Index : Yes / No
Speaking Order : Yes/No
Internet:Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
msv

Note: Registry is directed to issue order copy on 16.10.2023.

To

1.The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
No.76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai~600 032.

2.State Environment Impact Assessment Authority
No.9, Jeenis Road
Saidapet, Chennai 15

3.The District Collector
Namakkal District
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4. The Assistant Director
Department of Geology and Mining
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Page No:5/6



WEB COPY



W.P.No. 29841 of 2023

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W.P.No. 29841 of 2023
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