



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.1145 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 15.11.2024

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VADAMALAI

Crl.R.C.(MD)No.1145 of 2024

Arumugam

... Petitioner

Vs.

State rep.by
The Inspector of Police,
Srirangam Police Station,
Tiruchirappalli District
(Crime No.352 of 2024)

... Respondent

PRAYER : Criminal Revision Petition filed under Section 438 r/w 442 BNSS, to call for the records pertaining to the order passed by the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam, in Cr.M.P.No.1544 of 2024, dated 10.06.2024 and consequently, direct the respondent police to release the vehicle bearing Registration No.TN-19-B-2677.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.K.Mani

For Respondent : Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanidhi
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)



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ORDER

The Criminal Revision Case is directed against the order, dated 10.06.2024, passed in Cr.M.P.No.1544 of 2024 on the file of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam dismissing the petition filed under Section 457 r/w 451 of Cr.P.C.

2. The petitioner claims to be the owner of the vehicle Bolero Maxi Truck bearing Registration No.TN-19-B-2677. On 12.04.2024, the respondent police seized the vehicle on the ground that the vehicle was used for transporting 1 unit of river sand without any valid license or permit, and registered a case in Crime No.352 of 2024 for the offence under Section 379 of IPC r/w Section 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act.

3. It is not in dispute that the petitioner has approached the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam by filing a petition for the return of vehicle bearing registration No.TN-19-B-2677 in Cr.M.P.No.1544 of 2024, and the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam vide his order, dated 10.06.2024, has dismissed



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the said petition. Aggrieved by the order of dismissal, the petitioner has now come forward with the present revision.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the vehicle bearing Reg.No.TN-19-B-2677 is presently owned by the petitioner, and that the said vehicle has no connection whatever with the alleged occurrence, and that the vehicle is with the police for the past seven months, and that if the vehicle is kept in open place, the value of the said vehicle will get deteriorated, and that therefore, interim custody may be granted to the petitioner.

6. The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent would submit that the vehicle was used for transporting 1 unit of river sand. He would further submit that the confiscation proceeding has not been initiated yet.



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7. In this case, the vehicle was seized on 12.04.2024. The vehicle is keeping in the open place from 12.04.2024 onwards. Further, if the vehicle is kept in open place exposing to sun and rain, the value of the vehicle will be deteriorated and no purpose will be served in keeping the vehicle in custody. Considering the over all facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is inclined to allow this revision by following the principle of law laid down by the Honourable Supreme Court, in the case of ***Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai Vs. State of Gujarat [2002 (10) SCC 283]***.

8. Accordingly, this Criminal Revision Case is allowed, and the order, dated 10.06.2024, passed in Cr.M.P.No.1544 of 2024 by the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam is hereby set aside and the vehicle Bolero Maxi Truck bearing Reg.No.TN-19-B-2677, is ordered to be returned to the petitioner for interim custody subject to the confiscation proceedings to be taken by the concern Department or by the Court on the following conditions :



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(i) the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of **Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only)** as non-refundable deposit for the said vehicle to the credit of the District Mineral Foundation Trust, Tiruchirapalli District;

(ii) On such deposit, the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs only), with two sureties for a likesum to the satisfaction of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam;

(iii) the vehicle shall be photographed in different angle and the engine and chassis number shall also be photographed in the presence of the Head Clerk of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam at the cost of the petitioner and the petitioner's signature to be obtained in the backside of the photographs, and the said photographs and CD shall be kept in the case bundle for the purpose of marking them as material objects during trial;

(iv) the petitioner shall deposit the original Registration Certificate of the vehicle before the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Srirangam;



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(v) the petitioner shall not alienate and shall not alternate the physical features of the vehicle till the disposal of the case;

(vi) the petitioner shall produce the vehicle before the Court and before the respondent police as and when required;

15.11.2024

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NCC : Yes / No

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

To

1.The District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate,
Srirangam

2.The Inspector of Police,
Srirangam Police Station,
Tiruchirappalli District

3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.



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P.VADAMALAI, J.

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