



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.1078 of 2024

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 18.11.2024

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VADAMALAI

Crl.R.C.(MD)No.1078 of 2024

Manikandan

... Petitioner

Vs.

State rep.by
The Inspector of Police,
Thiruppanandhal Police Station,
Thanjavur District
(Crime No.651 of 2024)

... Respondent

PRAYER : Criminal Revision Petition filed under Section 438 r/w 442 BNSS, to call for the entire records pertaining to the order dated 22.10.2024 made in Cr.M.P.No.4152 of 2024 on the file of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvidadaimaruthur and set aside the same, and direct the respondent herein to grant the interim custody of the vehicle viz. Ashok Layland bearing registration No.TN-30-AW-6888 which has been seized by the respondent herein in Crime No.651 of 2024.



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

ORDER

The Criminal Revision Case is directed against the order, dated 22.10.2024, passed in Cr.M.P.No.4152 of 2024 on the file of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvidaimaruthur dismissing the petition filed under Sections 451 and 457 of Cr.P.C.

2. The petitioner claims to be the owner of the vehicle Ashok Leyland bearing Registration No.TN-30-AW-6888. On 21.08.2024, the respondent police seized the vehicle on the ground that the vehicle was used for transporting sand without any valid license or permit, and registered a case in Crime No.651 of 2024 for the offence under Section 303(2) of BNS r/w Section 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act.



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3. It is not in dispute that the petitioner has approached the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvudaimaruthur by filing a petition for the return of vehicle bearing registration No.TN-30-AW-6888 in Cr.M.P.No.4152 of 2024, and the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvudaimaruthur vide his order, dated 22.10.2024, has dismissed 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-30-AW-6888 is 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 two and a half 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.



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6. The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent would submit that the petitioner is the owner of the vehicle, and the vehicle was used for transporting sand without permit.

7. In this case, the vehicle was seized on 21.08.2024. The vehicle is keeping in the open place from 21.08.2024 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 22.10.2024 passed in Cr.M.P.No.4152 of 2024 by the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvudaimaruthur, is hereby set aside and the vehicle Ashok Leyland bearing Reg.No.TN-30-AW-6888, is ordered to be returned to the petitioner for interim custody



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subject to the confiscation proceedings to be taken by the concern

Department or by the Court on the following conditions :

(i) the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of **Rs.40,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only)** as non-refundable deposit for the said vehicle to the credit of **the Head Master, Sethupathi Government Higher Secondary School, Tiruchuli, Virudhunagar District, Account No.:30700985498, State Bank of India, Tiruchuli, IFSC Code : SBIN0003832;**

(ii) On such deposit, the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs only), with two sureties for a likesum to the satisfaction of the learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvidadaimaruthur;

(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, Thiruvidadaimaruthur 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;



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

(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;

18.11.2024

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NCC : Yes / No

Index : Yes / No

Internet : Yes / No

To

1.The learned District Munsif cum Judicial Magistrate,
Thiruvidaimaruthur

2.The Inspector of Police,
Thiruppanandhal Police Station,
Thanjavur District

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



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P.VADAMALAI, J.

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