



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 03.07.2025

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THE HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE N.MALA

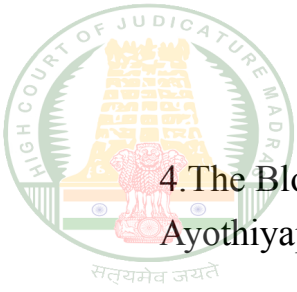
WP.No.10205 of 2025

P.Kavitha
W/o.Palanisamy, 8th Ward Member,
Mettupatty Panchayath,
Ayothiapattinam Panchayat Union,
Valapadi Taluk, Salem District.
Residing at No.160 A,
Mariamman Kovil Street,
Mettupatty Conoly, Seshanchavadi,
Salem 636 111.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

- 1.The Director,
Rural Development and Panchayath Raj Department,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Panagal Building,
4th and 5th Floor, Jennis Road, Saidapet, Chennai 15.
- 2.The District Collector,
Saem District, Salem.
- 3.The Assistant Director of Panchayath,
District Collectorate Officer,
Salem District.



4.The Block Development Officer (Village Panchayath)
Ayothiapattinam Union, Salem District.

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5.Chandira Rajakesavan,
President, Mettupatty Panchayath,
Ayothiapattinam Panchayat Union,
Valapadi Taluk, Salem District.
Residing at Rajaveethi, Mettupatty,
Valapadi Taluk, Salem 636111.

6.Suriya Prakash,
Secretary, Mettupatty Panchayath,
Ayothiapattinam Panchayat Union,
Valapadi Taluk, Salem District.

7.Mahendiran,
Deputy Director Block Development,
Ayothiapattinam Panchayat Union, Salem District.

Respondent(s)

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a direction in the nature of Writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd respondent to consider the representation of the Petitioner dated 23.09.2024 and consequently take appropriate action against the Respondents 5 to 7 and pass such further orders.

For Petitioner: Mr.S.Arjun

For Respondents: Mr.M.Rajendiran,
Additional Government Pleader
for R1 to R3

Mr.P.Anandakumar,
Government Advocate for R4



ORDER

This writ petition has been filed for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the 2nd respondent to consider the representation of the petitioner dated 23.09.2024 and consequently take appropriate action against respondents 5 to 7.

2. The petitioner is a elected ward member of Mettupatty Panchayat in Salem district, alleges serious irregularities and misuse of power by the 5th respondent, the Panchayat President. The 5th Respondent has allegedly acted in a biased manner, excluding the petitioner and other ward members from decision-making while favouring her relatives and party members. Welfare schemes were implemented without transparency, with government benefits being distributed only among the 5th Respondent's close associates. Additionally, funds meant for public welfare, including those for sewage maintenance, drinking water repairs and the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), were misappropriated through false billing and unauthorized expenditures. Despite multiple representations to higher authorities, only evasive responses were provided, and no concrete action was taken. An audit report obtained



under RTI revealed that financial entries were made without proper resolutions, confirming financial irregularities.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner contends that the 5th Respondent has misused her official position for personal and political gain, violating Panchayat governance norms. The non-conduct of Gram Sabha meetings and unilateral decision-making have deprived residents of their rights and necessary amenities. The petitioner seeks a writ directing authorities to take immediate action against the 5th respondent, ensure accountability in the fund utilization, and implement welfare schemes fairly and transparently.

4. Learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for respondents 1 to 3 would submit that the representation of the petitioner dated 23.09.2024 would be considered on merits, in accordance with law, within a time frame stipulated by this Court.

5. Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.



6. Without going into the merits of the case, the second respondent is directed to consider the representation of the petitioner dated 23.09.2024 after conducting a detailed enquiry by giving due notice to the petitioner as well as respondents 5 to 7 affording an opportunity of personal hearing, and pass appropriate orders on merits, in accordance with law, within a period of eight (8) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

In the result, the writ petition stands disposed of with the above observations and direction. No costs.

03.07.2025

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking order: Yes/No

Neutral Citation: Yes/No



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To

WP No.10205 of 2



N.MALA,J.

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