



W.P.No.21718 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 16.12.2025

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR. MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA,
CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.ARUL MURUGAN

W.P.No.21718 of 2025

and

W.M.P.No.24497 of 2025

C.Chellaiah,
President of Association for
Preserving Water Bodies and Mountains,
Kondamanayakkanpatti,
Namakkal District,
Tamil Nadu.

.. Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by The Principal Secretary,
Department of Environment,
Climate Change and Forests,
Secretariat, Chennai.
- 2.The District Collector,
Namakkal District,
The District Collectorate,
Tiruchengode Road,
Namakkal District - 637 003.
- 3.The Assistant Director,
Department of Mines and Minerals,
Tiruchengode Road,
Namakkal District - 637 003.



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4.The District Environmental Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Collectorate Campus,
Near Tamil Nadu Civil Supply Corporation,
Namakkal - 637 003.

5.The Superintendent of Police,
Tiruchengode Road,
Namakkal District - 637 003.

6.S.Subash,
S/o.N.Subramanian,
No.2/53, Vettampadi Post,
Namakkal Taluk, Namakkal District.

7.S.Menaka,
W/o.Sribalan,
444, Main Road, Senthamangalam Taluk,
Namakkal District.

8.N.Karthick Namakkal Kittu,
Proprietor of M/s.Karthik Blue Metals,
No.2/2, Kondamanaickenpatti Village,
Senthamangalam Taluk,
Namakkal District.

9.S.Kowsik Prabhu,
S/o.Subburaayan,
Main Road, 3/429,
Senthamangalam, Senthamangalam Taluk,
Namakkal District.

.. Respondents

(R6 to R9 impleaded vide Order dated 11.08.2025 made in
W.M.P.No.33946 of 2025 in W.P.No.21718 of 2025)

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking issuance of a writ of Mandamus forbearing the respondents from permitting any further quarrying, mining, stone crushing, or related activities in Survey No.1, Kondamanayakkanpatti, Namakkal



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District and to take immediate and effective steps to stop all ongoing illegal operations therein, and to protect the land in the said survey number and its surrounding environment from further degradation due to illegal mining activities.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.G.Vedhavikas
for M/s.V.Srimathi

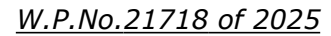
For Respondents : Mr.E.Vijay Anand
Additional Government Pleader for R1 to R3
Mr.V.Gunasekar
Standing Counsel for R4
Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor for R5
Mr.V.Sanjeevi for R6 to R9

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by G.Arul Murugan, J.)

The petitioner, through this Public Interest Litigation, seeks to prevent the illegal quarrying, mining and stone crushing activities in Survey No.1, Kondamanayakkanpatti, Namakkal District.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that illegal quarrying activities are undertaken in Survey No.1 of Kondamanayakkanpatti, Namakkal District. At the same length, it is also stated that the proper public hearing was not conducted and quarries have been auctioned to specific individuals. Due to the quarry operations, significant



3. Further, it is asserted that the license was granted by the authorities without proper inspection and excessive mining is carried beyond permissible limits. The quarries are situated in close proximity to the residential areas and explosives are used day and night, creating huge noise and air pollution. The agricultural activities are affected. Due to the quarry operations, walls of the houses get cracked and also damaged. Health issues are caused due to the dust and the drinking water also gets affected. Hence, the petitioner had come up with the present writ petition.

5. The official respondents and the impleaded private respondents had filed separate counter affidavits refuting the allegations made by the petitioner.



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6. Mr.A.G.Vedhavikas, learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that there is a large scale irregularity in quarry operations resulting in huge environmental impact on the nearby residents and their properties. Indiscriminate blasting is done day and night, which hugely impacts the men and cattle, including the children. Quarrying is done in violation of the terms of license and by using huge machinery, excavation is done beyond permissible limits. The authorities are mute spectators and no steps have been taken against the erring mining operators. Due to the mining activities, one child has also lost her life for which a case had been registered.

7. The learned Additional Government Pleader for the official respondents submitted that there is a vast extent of land in Survey No.1 and quarry operations had been carried out even from the year 1998 onwards. The tender cum auction has been called for by splitting the land into number of blocks and as per the auction, licenses are ultimately granted. Lease deeds have been executed by the District Collector and quarries are operated after obtaining the environmental clearance and consent from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. He further submitted that at every stage, notices were issued and public



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hearing was conducted and the quarrying activities are undertaken in due compliance with the lease terms and provisions of the act and rules. The allegations of the petitioner are general in nature and there is no specific complaint.

8. The learned counsel for the impleaded private respondents submitted that the writ petition is not filed in public interest but only with vested interest. The petitioner had never challenged any lease granted for the past 25 years and since the demands of the petitioner were not met, he had come up with the present writ petition.

9. The petitioner had participated in the public hearing conducted by the District Collector, which has not been disclosed in the affidavit. The respondents 6 to 9 have valid lease deeds and are operating the quarry after obtaining the environmental clearance and consent from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Blasting operations are permitted as per the terms of the lease. Mining is carried out strictly in adherence to the lease deed and the provisions of the act. The quarry operations are only from 6.00am to 5.30pm and also the blasting activities are carried out by the licensed persons



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between 4.30pm and 5.00pm, after observing all safety and precautionary measures. The entire allegations are baseless and against the factual aspects.

10. Heard the rival submissions and considered the materials available on record.

11. It is not in dispute that an extent of 34.54.0 hectares of government poramboke land is available in Survey No.1 of Kondamanayakkanpatti Village, Namakkal District. The said land has been split into a number of blocks and lease have been granted to various persons through tender cum auction for the past 25 years, from the year 1998.

12. As regards the private respondents are concerned, the sixth respondent became the successful bidder in tender cum auction conducted in respect of 2.00.0 hectares in S.F.No.1 (P) (Bit No.4) and on payment of the entire lease amount by the sixth respondent, the mining plan was approved on 03.07.2023 and the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), after conducting



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public hearing has granted environmental clearance on 30.05.2025.

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board also granted consent under the Air and Water Act on 01.08.2025. The lease deed has been executed for a period of 5 years and the same is valid till 31.08.2026.

13. Likewise, lease had been granted in favour of the eighth respondent in respect of the quarry operations in S.F.No.1 (P) (Bit 1A) to an extent of 2.36.0 hectares in the tender cum auction. The environmental clearance was issued by SEIAA on 30.05.2025 and consent was also granted by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board on 11.07.2025. The lease deed has also been executed, which is in force.

14. As per the lease deed executed, clause (xv) stipulates that the lessee shall abide by all the conditions laid down in the Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Mines Act, 1952; Indian Explosives Act, 1884; Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961; Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. Further, as per the environmental clearance issued by SEIAA, clause 6.6 of the standard conditions stipulates that the EC holder shall ensure that the blasting operations are carried out by the blaster/mine



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mate/mine foreman duly employed by him/her in accordance with the provisions of MMR Act, 1961. Therefore, the conditions in the lease and also environmental clearance authorise and stipulate that the license holder is entitled to carry out quarrying by blasting operations, adhering to the conditions.

15. The official respondents had infact conducted public hearing and issued tender cum auction notice as per the rules, notifying the areas in the District Gazette. The private respondents had been successful bidders and on payment of the entire auction amount, they were granted the mining license. The lease deeds have executed and as referred earlier, environmental clearance and consent by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board have also been issued. In such circumstances, the quarrying carried out cannot be said to be illegal and on the contrary, it is in due compliance with the lease granted in their favour.

16. The petitioner has only made general nature of allegations in the writ petition and has not come out with any specific complaint or any illegality in the mining. Neither the tender called for nor the lease



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granted has been put to challenge. Further, the petitioner has neither challenged the environmental clearance granted before the Tribunal nor challenged the consent granted by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board before the appellate authority. In the absence of challenge to any of the above and considering the fact that the quarry operations have been carried out for the past 25 years and the private respondents are holding valid mining lease and necessary certificates from the competent authorities to carry on mining, the general nature of allegations made by the petitioner cannot be entertained.

17. It is affirmed by the authorities that regular inspections are carried out and the quarrying activities are carried on in due compliance with the lease conditions and in accordance with the provisions of the act and rules. It is also submitted by the private respondents that the blasting is only done in the stipulated time by the licensed persons complying with the lease terms and further, the quarrying is operated only as per the permitted timings and extent. When no specific complaint or any illegality is raised, the general nature of allegations made cannot be a basis to interfere in the mining operations which are carried out by the leaseholders.



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18. In view of the above, no interference is called for.

Accordingly, the writ petition stands dismissed. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the interim application is closed.

(MANINDRA MOHAN SHRIVASTAVA, CJ) (G.ARUL MURUGAN,J)
16.12.2025

Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No

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