



W.P No.41874 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 06.11.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

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V.Kaaliyannan

..... Petitioner

Vs

1.The Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by the Principal Secretary
Public Works Department,
The Secretariat,
St. George Fort, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Chairman Cum Managing Director
Tangedco
6th Floor, Tantransco Building
No.144, Anna Salai
Chennai-600 002.

3.The Engineer-in-Chief
(Water Resources and Organization)
And Chief Engineer(General)
Public Works Department
Chepauk, Chennai-600 005.

4.The Chief Engineer
Water Resources and Organization
Public Works Department
Town Hall, Coimbatore

5.The District Collector
The District Collectorate
Erode.



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6. The Sub Collector
Gobichettipalayam
Erode District.

7. The Revenue Divisional Officer
Office of the Revenue Divisional Officer
Gobichettipalayam
Erode District.

8. The Tahsildar
Anthiyur Taluk
Erode District.

9. The Superintending Engineer
Tangedco, Edc/Gobi
Tiruppur Road, Vettaikarankovil
Nagadevanpalayam Post
Gobichettipalayam
Erode District-638 476

10. The Junior Executive Engineer
Tangedco
Gobichettipalayam
Erode District.

11. The Block Development Officer
Block Development Office
Anthiyur Taluk, Thavuttupalayam
Anthiyur, Erode District

12. The Executive Engineer
Bhavanisagar Dam Division
Bhavani-638 451.

13. The Assistant Executive Engineer
Water Resources and Organization
Public Works Department
Bhavani Division
Bhavani-301, Erode District.

14. Dharmalingam

15. Uthirasamy



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- 16.Kuppusamy
- 17.Shanthi
- 18.Nandhagopal
- 19.Nandhakumar
- 20.Deivasamy
- 21.Annadurai
- 22.Ruthramurthy
- 23.Arthanaari Gounder
- 24.Visalaakshi
- 25.Senthilkumar
- 26.Radhamani
- 27.Murugesan
- 28.Kumudham
- 29.Thangam
- 30.Shanmugasundaram
- 31.Dhanalakshmi
- 32.Maarasamy
- 33.Kumaravel
- 34.Easwaran
- 35.Malaichamy

..... Respondents

PRAYER: This writ petition is filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondents 1 to 13 to take appropriate action against the respondents 14 to 35 for the illegal tapping of water from the Bhavani river bed from the Wells situated in Sy Nos.107/1B, 98/1B, 98/1C, and 98/1D, Kuppaandapalayam Village, Anthiyur Taluk, Erode District.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Nandhagopal

For R1, R3 to R8
R11 to R13 : Mrs.S.Anitha
Special Government Pleader

R2, R9 & R10 : Mr.I. Syed Sigbhatulla
Standing Counsel



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R14 to R35 : Notice dispensed with

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed, directing the respondents 1 to 13 to take appropriate action against the respondents 14 to 35 for the illegal tapping of water from the Bhavani river bed from the wells situated in Sy Nos.107/1B/98/1B, 98/1C, and 98/1D, Kuppandapalayam Village, Anthiyur Taluk, Erode District.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that he is the Ayacutdharar under the Lower Bhavani Project Canal (LBP). However, the private respondents have been illegally digging and operating an unauthorized Well in Sy.No. 107/1B, located merely 100 meters from the Bhavani River bed, a direct violation of PWD norms requiring a minimum distance of 250 meters. Furthermore, the respondents have been unlawfully tapping and extracting river water through the said well and pumping it to altered/combined wells in Survey Nos. 98/1B, 98/1C, and 98/1D using three merged electricity service connections (SC Nos. 312010968, 312010970, and 312010969). The extracted water is then sold commercially to other farmers for profit. Despite the petitioner, an affected agriculturist, lodging detailed complaints on 19.03.2025 and 05.10.2025 clearly delineating the statutory violations (including lack of necessary permits and

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violations of Tamil Nadu Farmer's Management of Irrigation Systems Act, 2000), the public respondents have failed to discharge their constitutional duty to protect the public water resource and the river ecosystem. Hence, the present writ petition has been filed.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that it would suffice, if a direction is issued to the public respondents to consider the petitioner's representation within a reasonable time.

4. The learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondents 1, 3 to 8 & 11 to 13 would submit that the eighth respondent will consider the petitioner's representation and pass appropriate orders within a reasonable time as fixed by this Court.

5. Since no adverse order has been passed against the respondents 14 to 35, notice to the respondents 14 to 35 is dispensed with.

6. Considering the limited relief sought by the learned counsel for the petitioner, this Court, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, directs the eighth respondent to consider the petitioner's representation, after



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affording an opportunity of personal hearing to all concerned parties, and to pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law, within a period of eight (8) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

7. With the above directions, this writ petition is disposed of. No costs.

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Index : Yes/No
Neutral citation : Yes/No
Speaking/non-speaking order

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To

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Public Works Department,
The Secretariat,
St. George Fort, Chennai-600 009.
2. The Chairman Cum Managing Director
Tangedco
6th Floor, Tantransco Building
No.144, Anna Salai
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M.DHANDAPANI, J.

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