



A.S. Nos.329, 330, 335, 337, 293 & 247 of 2020

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Reserved on : 15-10-2025, 17-10-2025 and 22-10-2025

Pronounced on : 29-10-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE A.D.MARIA CLETE

A.S. Nos.329, 330, 335, 337, 293 & 247 of 2020

and

CMP Nos.4001, 4000, 4011, 4014 & 3795 of 2020

A.S. No.329 of 2020 and CMP No.4001 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A.)
Unit- II, Arasu Cement Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant

Vs

Sundaramoopnar (Died)

1.Sengamalam (60 years)
D/o.Late Sundaramoopnar

2.Seemapathy (58 years)
S/o.Late Sundaramoopnar

3.Rubavathi (56 years)
D/o.Late Sundaramoopnar

4.Muruganatham
S/o.Late Sundaramoopnar

Nerinchikorai,
Ariyalur Taluk & District.



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5. Managing Director,
TamilNadu Cements Corporation Ltd.,
No.735, II Floor, LLA Building,
Annasalai, Chennai.

6. Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Respondents

PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the judgment and decree passed in LAOP No.48 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.

PRAYER in CMP : Petition filed under Order 41 Rules 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to stay the execution of the decree and judgment passed in LAOP No.48 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the Sub Court, Ariyalur pending disposal of the above appeal thus render justice.

For Appellant: Mr. R.Kumaravel,
Additional Government Pleader

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 to R4

Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R5 & R6

A.S. No.330 of 2020 and CMP No.4000 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A.)
Unit- II, Arasu Cement Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant



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Vs

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Selvaraju (Deceased)

1.Anbzhagan (48 years)
S/o.Late Selvaraju

2.Manivel (46 years)
S/o.Late Selvaraju

3.Poonkodi,
D/o.Late Selvaraju
Kattupringam Village
Ariyalur Taluk & District.

4. Managing Director,
TamilNadu Cements Corporation Ltd.,
No.735, II Floor, LLA Building,
Annasalai, Chennai.

5. Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Respondents

PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the judgment and decree passed in LAOP No.44 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.

PRAYER in CMP : Petition filed under Order 41 Rules 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to stay the execution of the decree and judgment passed in LAOP No.44 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the Sub Court, Ariyalur pending disposal of the above appeal thus render justice.



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For Appellant: Mr. R.Kumaravel,
Additional Government Pleader

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 to R3

Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R4 & R5

A.S. No.335 of 2020 and CMP No.4011 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A.)
Unit II Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant

Vs

Anjalai (Died), W/o.Rasu

1.Periyasamy
S/o.Late Rasu

2.Sengamalam
D/o.Late Rasu

Karunkali Kottakadu
Ariyalur Taluk & District.

3. Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd.,
No.735, Iind Floor, LLA Building,
Annasali, Chennai.

4. Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Respondents



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PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the judgment and decree passed in LAOP No.31 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.

PRAYER in CMP : Petition filed under Order 41 Rules 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to stay the execution of the decree and judgment passed in LAOP No.31 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the Sub Court, Ariyalur pending disposal of the above appeal thus render justice.

For Appellant: Mr. M.Murali,
Government Advocate

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 & R2

Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R3 & R4

A.S. No.337 of 2020 and CMP No.4014 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A.)
Unit II Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant

Vs

Manickam (Died)

1. Thangavel S/o.Naesan

2. Nallathambi S/o.Late Manickam



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3. Thenmozhi D/o. Late Manickam

Asthinapuram, Ariyalur Taluk & District.

4. Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Ltd.,
No.735, Iind Floor, LLA Building,
Annasalai, Chennai.

5. Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Respondents

PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the judgment and decree passed in LAOP No.65 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.

PRAYER in CMP : Petition filed under Order 41 Rules 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to stay the execution of the decree and judgment passed in LAOP No.65 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the Sub Court, Ariyalur pending disposal of the above appeal thus render justice.

For Appellant: Mr. M.Murali,
Government Advocate

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 to R3
Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R4 & R5



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A.S. No.293 of 2020 and CMP.No.3795 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A)
Unit II Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant

Vs

Ramakrishnan (Died)
S/o.Duraikannu

1.Parvathi
W/o.Late.Ramakrishnan
2.Saminathan
S/o.Late.Ramakrishnan
3.Karthi
S/o.Late.Ramakrishnan
All Are Kattupringam Village,
Ariyalur Taluk & District.

4. Managing Director,
Arasu Cements Corporation.,
No.735, IInd Floor, LLA Building,
Annasalai, Chennai.

5.Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory
Ariyalur.

...Respondents

PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the Judgment and Decree passed in LAOP No.47 of 2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.



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PRAYER in CMP : Petition filed under Order 41 Rules 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to stay the execution of the decree and judgment passed in LAOP No.47/2003 dated 19.04.2017 on the Sub Court, Ariyalur pending disposal of the above appeal thus render justice.

For Appellant: Mr.G.Nanmaran,
Special Government Pleader

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 to R3

Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R4 & R5

A.S. No.247 of 2020

The Special Tahsildar, (L.A)
Unit II Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Appellant

Vs

1.Mookaiyan,
S/o. Arunachalam

Chandrakasan (Died)

2.Chinnathurai,
S/o.Arunachalam

3.Sanker,
S/o.Late Chandrakasan
Nerinchikorai Village,
Ariyalur Taluk & District.



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4.Managing Director,
Arasu Cements Corporation,
No.735, IInd Floor, LLA Building,
Annasalai, Chennai.

5.Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cements Factory,
Ariyalur.

...Respondents

PRAYER in AS: Appeal Suit filed under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, to set aside the Judgment and Decree passed in LAOP No.24 of 2000 dated 19.04.2017 on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur and pass such further or other order on this Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and this render justice.

For Appellant: Mr.G.Nanmaran,
Special Government Pleader

For Respondents: Mr. R.Gokulakrishnan, Advocate
For R1 to R3

Mr. A.Sivaji, Standing Counsel
For R2 & R3

COMMON JUDGMENT

Heard.

2. These appeals are preferred under Section 54 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. They arises out of the awards passed by the Sub



Court, Ariyalur, in L.A.O.P. Nos.48, 44, 31, 65, 47 of 2003 & 24 of 2000 respectively, dated 19th April 2017. The acquisition relates to certain lands in Ariyalur District for the establishment of a Government Cement Factory under the Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited, hereinafter referred to as TANCEM. The appellant before this Court in all the appeals is the Special Tahsildar, Land Acquisition Unit-II, representing the acquiring authority.

3.The Government has issued 4(1) notifications dated 26.02.1996, 14.03.1996 and 15.04.1996 and the Land Acquisition Officer by awards dated 24.02.1999, 09.03.1999 and 06.04.1999 had relied on private sale transactions in respect of nearby lands and fixed the market value at Rs.200/- and Rs.250/- per cent. The landowners, not satisfied with this valuation, sought a reference under Section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act. The Sub Court, Ariyalur, by its award dated 19.04.2017, enhanced the compensation to Rs.1,200/- per cent, together with the usual statutory benefits towards solatium, additional amount and interest.

4.The memorandum of appeals challenge the enhancement as excessive and unsustainable. It is contended that the Reference Court relied on sale



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deeds which were not comparable to the acquired lands, that the Land Acquisition Officer's dry-land data sales should have been accepted, and that the Court below failed to apply a block-wise valuation or to deduct a proper percentage for development. The appellant also questions the award of interest on solatium and the additional amount.

5.The issues for consideration are:

(1) Whether the enhancement to Rs.1,200/- per cent requires interference in the light of subsequent pronouncements of this Court in companion appeals from the same acquisition? and

(2) Whether any development deduction has to be imposed or whether uniform parity should be maintained?

6.It is now well settled through a long series of appeals arising from the very same acquisition scheme that this Court has consistently taken a view in favour of the landowners. By the common judgment dated 29th January 2024 in A.S. No. 916 of 2019 and connected matters, this Court dismissed the appeals preferred by the State and by TANCEM, allowed the cross-objections filed by the claimants, and enhanced the market value from



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Rs.1,200/- per cent to Rs.1,500/- per cent, directing the payment of the balance within eight weeks.

7.Subsequently, by order dated 23rd August 2024, S.M.Subramaniam, J., recorded that TANCEM itself had passed a resolution—approved by the Government—to pay compensation at the rate of Rs.1,500/- per cent, with statutory interest, to all the landowners under this scheme, and directed the Land Acquisition Officer to settle the enhanced compensation uniformly within eight weeks. This shows that a conscious decision has been taken by the acquiring authority to maintain parity and avoid any discrimination among the affected landholders.

8.Again, on 23rd October 2024, in a batch of connected CMPs, Sathi Kumar Sukumara Kurup, J., reiterated that the fixation of Rs.1,500/- per cent in the earlier batch governs all connected cases, and observed that the petitions seeking rehearing had become infructuous in view of the finality of the common judgment, while granting four months' time for TANCEM to complete the payment.



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9. In view of these determinations arising from the same acquisition and involving the same acquiring body, there is no scope for a different view in these appeals. To perpetuate a lower rate here would run counter to the principle of equality and uniformity in compensation. The contentions advanced on behalf of the appellant with regard to comparability, valuation, or deduction are no longer open for reconsideration in the face of the later common judgment and the uniform policy (resolution dated 13.03.2024) adopted by TANCEM and the relevant portion of the said resolution dated 13.03.2024 is extracted hereunder;

“The Board took note that TANCEM acquired 1137.97.5 hectares of land in 3 phases. The Board also took note that in 1999, 320.76 acres were acquired for which compensation was fixed at Rs.250/- per cent and In the year 2000, 390 LAOP's demanding higher compensation and enhanced compensation @ Rs.1250/- per cent was fixed vide order dated 29.11.2012 against which TANCEM filed Writ Petition in Hon'ble High Court of Madras and the cases were remanded to Sub-Court, Ariyalur on 20.08.2014. The Board further took note that the compensation was reduced to Rs.1,200/- per cent. Subsequently, Special Tahsildar, Ariyalur filed Appeal Suits for 319 cases and judgement pronounced for 300 cases @ Rs.900/-per cent totaling to Rs.10.26 crore and the amount was deposited in Sub-court Ariyalur. The Board noted 20 appeals were filed and enhanced rate was fixed between Rs.1200/- to Rs.1500 per cent. The Board also noted that RDO convened fees committee meeting in view of PH on 15.2.24 for mining lease of 92.22.6 ha at Pudupalayam village and demanded Rs.1,500/- per cent at an approximate requirement of additional amount was Rs.19 crore (approx).



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Resolved that the proposal of TANCEM to settle the LAOP Cases by payment of compensation fixed by Hon'ble High Court, Madras in the judgment dated 29.01.2024 at the rate of Rs.1500/- per cent besides interest entitled as per section 23(2) of LA Act, 1894 be and is hereby approved.

Further resolved to accord approval for payment of compensation for all other cases pending before Hon'ble High Court, Madras / Sub-Court, Ariyalur as and when judgment is pronounced at the rate of Rs.1500/- per cent plus interest as finalized in Lokayuktha / Mediation so as to avoid further litigation.”

10.On the question of development deduction, it is seen that the subsequent batch decisions have proceeded on a flat rate of Rs.1,500/- per cent, without applying any deduction towards development charges, the acquisition being for an industrial and mining purpose and not for layout formation. Any deduction at this stage would break the uniformity already settled by this Court.

11.Accordingly, these appeals fail on merits. Following the common judgment and the uniform decisions affirmed by this Court, the market value of the acquired land is fixed at Rs.1,500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only) per cent, with no deduction towards development charges. The awards passed by the reference court are modified by enhancing from



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Rs.1,200/- to Rs.1500/-.The claimants are entitled to the statutory benefits under Sections 23(1-A), 23(2) and 28 of the Land Acquisition Act, to be calculated on the enhanced amount.

12.Any sum already deposited shall be given due credit. The balance compensation, together with all statutory additions and interest, shall be deposited by the acquiring authority within eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this Judgment, to the credit of L.A.O.P. Nos.48, 44, 31, 65, 47 of 2003 & 24 of 2000, respectively, on the file of the Sub Court, Ariyalur. On such deposit, the landowners are permitted to withdraw the same in accordance with law. Thus the appeals are disposed of. There will be no order as to costs. The connected miscellaneous petitions are closed. It is made clear that though a Common Judgment is rendered in respect of these appeals, the learned counsel for the parties are entitled to get separate fees in respect of each appeal.

29.10.2025

dna/ay

Index: Yes / No

Speaking Order / Non-speaking Order

Neutral Citation: Yes / No



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To

- 1.The Sub-Court, Ariyalur.
- 2.The Special Tahsildar, (LA)
Unit – II, Arasu Cement Factory.,
Ariyalur.
- 3.The Managing Director,
Arasu Cement Corporation,
No.735, IIIrd Floor,
LLA Building, Anna Salai,
Chennai.
- 4.The Deputy General Manager,
Arasu Cement Factory,
Ariyalur.
5. The Special Tahsildar (LA)
Unit II, Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation Ltd.,
Ariyalur.
6. The Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation Ltd.,
No.735, III Floor,
LLA Building, Anna Salai
Chennai
- 7.The Deputy General Manager
Tamil Nadu Cement Corporation Ltd.,
Ariyalur.



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DR. A.D. MARIA CLETE, J

dna/ay

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and
CMP Nos.4001, 4000, 4011,
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29.10.2025