



**W.P(MD)No.12320 of 2020**

**WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT**

**DATED : 23.07.2025**

**CORAM:**

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM  
and  
THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE A.D.MARIA CLETE**

**W.P(MD)No.12320 of 2020**

Devamooli

... Petitioner

VS.

- 1.The Principal Secretary,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Department of Industries, Mines and Minerals,  
Chennai.
- 2.The District Collector,  
Madurai District.
- 3.The District Collector,  
Dindigul District.
- 4.The Superintendent of Police,  
Dindigul District.
- 5.The Superintendent of Police,  
Madurai District.



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- 6.The District Forest Officer,  
Dindigul District.
- 7.The District Forest Officer,  
Madurai District.
- 8.The Assistant Director,  
Mines and Minerals Department,  
O/o.The District Collectorate,  
Madurai District.
- 9.The Deputy Superintendent of Police,  
Melur.
- 10.The Executive Engineer,  
Mullai Periyar-Vaigai Basin Section,  
Public Works Department,  
Melur,  
Madurai.
- 11.The Tahsildar,  
Melur Taluk,  
Madurai District.
- 12.The Assistant Engineer (Lines),  
Alakarkovil 230 / KV SS,  
Kallampatti,  
Alagarkovil,  
Madurai District.



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13. The General Manager (Operation & Technical),  
Indian Oil Corporation Limited,  
Southern Region Pipelines,  
House of Four Frames,  
6/16, Wheat Croft Road,  
Nungampakkam,  
Chennai – 600 034.

... Respondents

**PRAYER :** Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondents to take effective steps to prevent the illegal sand mining activity in and around the Alagarmalai Reserve Forest Area, Madurai District and Karanthamalai Reserve Forest, Sirumalai Reserve Forest, Dindigul District and also direct to take appropriate action against the erring officials in this regard.

For Petitioner : Mr.B.Sekar

For RR 1 to 3, 6 to 8,  
10 & 11 : Mr.P.Thilak Kumar  
Government Pleader

For RR 4, 5 & 9 : Mr.T.Senthil Kumar  
Additional Public Prosecutor

For R – 12 : Mr.S.Deenadhayalan

For R – 13 : Mr.R.Ravi



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## **ORDER**

**(Order of the Court was made by S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.)**

The writ on hand has been instituted to direct the respondents to take effective steps to prevent illegal sand mining activities in and around the Alagarmalai Reserve Forest Area, Madurai District as well as the Karanthamalai Reserve Forest and Sirumalai Reserve Forest, Dindigul District and also a direction to take appropriate action against the erring officials in this regard.

2. With reference to the relief sought for in the present Writ Petition, the District Forest Officer, Dindigul Division, Dindigul, has filed a counter-affidavit stating as follows:

*“4. Regarding the averments made in para Nos.3 and 4 of the affidavit, it is submitted that in Alagarmalai Reserve Forest Area, medical trees and herbal plants are available. Some schedule trees are also available. In Alagarmalai Reserve Forest no permission has been granted for quarrying sands, moreover there is no illegal quarrying in Alagarmalai Reserve Forest.*



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**WEB COPY** *Whenever it is found that there where felling of trees or anti forest activities, cases were registered against the violators and they were subjected to judicial proceedings.”*

3.It is needless to state that forest areas are to be protected by the officials in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Act and the relevant Rules. In the event of any illegal mining operations or related activities, the authorities are bound to initiate action and prosecute the offenders in the manner known to law.

4.With these observations, this Writ Petition is disposed of.  
There shall be no order as to costs.

**[S.M.S.,J.] & [A.D.M.C.,J.]**  
**23.07.2025**

NCC : Yes / No  
Index : Yes / No  
Internet : Yes  
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To

**5/8**



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**S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.**  
**and**  
**DR.A.D.MARIA CLETE, J.**

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**ORDER MADE IN**  
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**DATED : 23.07.2025**