



W.P.(MD) No.13494 of 2025

WEB COPY BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 30.04.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE MUMMINENI SUDHEER KUMAR

W.P.(MD) No.13494 of 2025
and
W.M.P.(MD) No.9727 of 2025

- 1.K.Pandian
- 2.P.Baluchamy
- 3.T.M.Kasimayan
- 4.S.Rajendran
- 5.M.Veluchamy
- 6.K.Krishnan
- 7.M.Sundaram
- 8.P.Ganesan
- 9.Lilly Joshop Mary
- 10.S.Periyakaruppan
- 11.M.Pitchaimani
- 12.P.Pandiyarajan
- 13.G.Marikkalai



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14.P.Paraman

15.K.Raman

16.J.Suseela

17.V.Selvam

18.R.Ganesan

19.S.Duraikalai

20.R.Pandi

21.Chelladurai

22.M.Maharajan

23.B.Raju

24.P.Duraisamy

25.Velusamy

26.U.Vellaichamy

27.K.Latcham

28.T.Nagarajan

29.T.Ganesan

30.Vetrivelan

31.V.Marichamy

32.K.Rajendran

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34.K.Mani

35.S.Aruldoss

36.R.Balasubramanian

37.R.Ganesan

38.M.Govindaraj

39.S.Kumarasamy

40.K.Krishnan

41.S.Sivasankaran

42.N.Ramasamy

43.M.Pitchai

44.P.Chellam

45.P.Rajendran

46.M.Pandi

47.P.Dhanabalan

... Petitioners

-vs-

1.The Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests
Headquarters of Forest Department
Guindy-Velacherri Main Road
Near Kannigapuram Check Post
Guindy, Chennai-600 032



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- 2.The District Forest Officer
Madurai Division
Race Course Road
Madurai-625 002
- 3.The District Forest Officer
Kanyakumari Division
175, College Road
Municipality Campus
Nagercoil-629 001
- 4.The District Forest Officer
Theni Division
KRR Nagar
Housing Board Colony
Theni-626 531
- 5.The District Forest Officer
Sivagangai Forest Division
Sivagangai-630 562
- 6.The Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
No.16, 14, 20 C.C.Salai Rajaji Nagar
M.S.F.Colony
Virudhunagar-1
- 7.The District Forest Officer
Dindigul Division
Velunachiyar Valagam
Dindigul-624 004

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a writ of mandamus directing the first respondent to pass orders to pay the minimum wages to the petitioners as per order of the Division Bench of this



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Court in W.A.Nos.2183 of 2012, dated 17.10.2012 and others as also followed in W.P.(MD) Nos.3881 to 3884 of 2013, dated 14.09.2020, along with consequential payment of dearness allowance after due revision within a time stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioners : Mr.V.O.S.Kalaiselvam

For Respondents : Mr.F.Deepak
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

Heard Mr.V.O.S.Kalaiselvam, learned counsel for the petitioners and Mr.F.Deepak, learned Special Government Pleader, appearing for the respondents.

2. This writ petition has been filed by the petitioners seeking a writ of mandamus directing the respondent No.1 to pass orders to pay the minimum wages to the petitioners as per the Judgment of the learned Division Bench of this Court in W.A.Nos.2183 of 2012, dated 17.10.2012, as also followed in W.P.(MD) Nos.3881 to 3884 of 2013, dated 14.09.2020, along with consequential payment of dearness allowance after due revision within a time stipulated by this Court.



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3. All the petitioners herein worked as Plot Watchers in the Social Forestry and Forest Extension Division, that is under the respondents and retired from service. They all are making a claim for payment of minimum wages for the service already rendered by them.

4. The issue whether the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act would apply to the petitioners and other similarly situated persons has come up for consideration before a learned Division Bench of the Principal Bench of this Court in W.A.Nos.2183 to 2188 of 2012 and the learned Division Bench came to the conclusion that the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act would apply to the persons who are similarly situated like the petitioners herein by judgment dated 17.12.2012. The said judgment passed by the learned Division Bench was also followed by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in W.P. (MD) Nos.3881 to 3884 of 2013 by duly upholding the orders passed by the authority under the Minimum Wages Act and further directing the respondents therein to pay the minimum wages within eight weeks.



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5. The fact that this Court has conclusively held that the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act would apply to the Plot Watchers worked in the Social Forestry and Forest Extension Division, is not in dispute and Mr.F.Deepak, learned Special Government Pleader also fairly submitted that the provisions of the Payment of Minimum Wages Act would apply to the petitioners herein. This Court does not see any reason to further dwell deep in the matter on merits.

6. In the light of the judgment passed by this Court in the writ appeals in W.A.Nos.2183 to 2188 of 2012 and the order passed by the Co-ordinate Bench in W.P.(MD) Nos.3881 to 3884 of 2013, this writ petition is disposed of directing the first respondent to consider the claim of the petitioners for payment of minimum wages in terms of the representations said to have been submitted by them by duly calling for the service particulars of the petitioners from the concerned division and pass orders thereon within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order by duly taking into consideration the judgment passed by the learned Division Bench in W.A.Nos.2183 to 2188 of 2012 and the order passed by the Co-ordinate Bench in W.P.(MD) Nos.3881 to 3884 of 2013.



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7. Accordingly, this Writ Petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

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

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To:

- 1.The Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests,
Headquarters of Forest Department,
Guindy-Velacherri Main Road,
Near Kannigapuram Check Post,
Guindy, Chennai-600 032.
- 2.The District Forest Officer,
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- 3.The District Forest Officer,
Kanyakumari Division ,
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