



W.P.(MD)No.13702 of 2022

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 22.10.2025

CORAM:

**THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI**

**W.P.(MD)No.13702 of 2022**

T.Muneeswaran

... Petitioner

versus

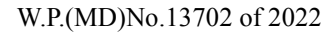
1. The Chairman,  
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust,  
Bharathi Nagar, Harbour Estate,  
Tuticorin 628 004.

2. The Deputy Commissioner of Labour,  
(Workman Compensation Commissioner),  
Office of Deputy Commissioner of Labour,  
Tirunelveli.

... Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondents to consider the petitioner's representation dated 01.04.2022 and to pay enhanced additional compensation to the petitioner within a stipulated time to be fixed by this Court.

|                |                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| For Petitioner | : Mr.K.R.Manimaran                                    |
| For R1         | : Mr.A.Arivuchandran                                  |
| For R2         | : Mr.C.Venkatesh Kumar,<br>Special Government Pleader |



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2. When this writ petition is taken up for hearing, a preliminary objection has been raised by the learned counsel for the first respondent that the petitioner is not entitled to maintain this writ petition that there is no employer and employee relationship between the petitioner and the Port Trust and that this claim has been made after 23 years and therefore, this writ petition is liable to be dismissed on the ground of laches also.

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Act, 2016. However, this Court, by order dated 07.03.2023, dismissed the writ petition holding that there is no employer and employee relationship between the petitioner and the Port Trust. However, the petitioner has filed this writ petition pursuant to the merger of Tuticorin Stevedores Association with the Port Trust.

4. Admittedly, the petitioner was an employee of Tuticorin Stevedores Association. This Tuticorin Stevedores Association was absorbed by the Port Trust in the year 1999, as per the memorandum of settlement dated 22.12.1999. However, even prior to that, the petitioner has suffered an accident and the Tuticorin Stevedores Association has paid a meagre compensation of Rs.1,87,076/-. Since the Tuticorin Stevedores Association was merged with the Port Trust, all the employees of Tuticorin Stevedores Association were absorbed by the Port Trust. However, the petitioner's name has not been added in the list of employees in the Tuticorin Stevedores Association, since he met with an accident in the year 1998. On this issue, the petitioner has already raised an issue before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court, Chennai (CGIT-LC) in I.D.No.84 of 2024 and the same is pending.



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5. In view of the earlier order passed by this Court in W.P.(MD)No. 16831 of 2020 dated 07.03.2023 that there is no employer and employee relationship between the petitioner and the Port Trust and the claim of additional compensation from the Port Trust has been made only after 23 years, this Court is not inclined to entertain this writ petition.

6. Accordingly, this writ petition is closed with liberty to the petitioner to workout his remedy in I.D.No.84 of 2024, which is pending before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court, Chennai. The Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court, Chennai, shall conclude the proceedings in I.D.No.84 of 2024 as expeditiously as possible, preferably, within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

**22.10.2025**

NCC : Yes/No  
Index : Yes/No  
Internet : Yes/No  
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**B.PUGALENDHI,J.**

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