



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 24.01.2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.VADAMALAI

Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

Ramalingam

... Petitioner

Vs.

State rep.by
The Inspector of Police,
Thiruvaiyaru Police Station,
Thanjavur District.
(Crime No.608 of 2024)

... Respondent

PRAYER : Criminal Revision Petition filed under Section 438 r/w 442 of BNSS, to call for the records relating to the order made in Crl.M.P. No.4592 of 2024, dated 06.12.2024, on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyaru, Thanjavur District and set aside the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Gurumoorthy

For Respondent : Mr.M.Vaikkam Karunanithi
Government Advocate (Crl. Side)



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

WEB COPY

ORDER

The Criminal Revision Case is directed against the order, dated 06.12.2024, passed in Crl.M.P.No.4592 of 2024 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar dismissing the petition filed under Section 497 read with Section 503 of BNSS.

2. The petitioner claims to be the owner of the vehicle Ashok Leyland Tipper Lorry bearing Registration No.TN-39-AY-6409. On 24.11.2024, the respondent police seized the vehicle on the ground that the vehicle was used for transporting 3 units of M-Sand without any valid license or permit, and registered a case in Crime No.608 of 2024 for the offence under Section 303(2) of BNS r/w Section 21(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act.

3. It is not in dispute that the petitioner has approached the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar by filing a petition for the return of vehicle bearing registration No.TN-39-AY-6409 in Crl.M.P.No.4592 of 2024, and the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar, vide order dated 06.12.2024, has dismissed the said petition. Aggrieved by the order



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

of dismissal, the petitioner has now come forward with the present revision.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent.

5. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the vehicle Ashok Leyland Tipper Lorry bearing Registration No.TN-39-AY-6409 is owned by the petitioner, and the said vehicle has no connection whatever with the alleged occurrence, and the vehicle is with the police for the past two months, and if the vehicle is kept in open place, the value of the said vehicle will get deteriorated. Therefore, interim custody of the vehicle may be granted to the petitioner.

6. The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent would submit that the petitioner, who has been arrayed as A1, is the owner of the vehicle bearing registration No.TN-39-AY-6409, and the vehicle was used for transporting 3 units of M-Sand.



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

WEB COPY

He would further submit that the model of the vehicle is of the year 2010, and the value of the vehicle comes to Rs.10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs only).

7. In this case, the vehicle was seized on 24.11.2024. The vehicle is kept in the open place from 24.11.2024 onwards. Further, if the vehicle is kept in open place exposing to sun and rain, the value of the vehicle will be deteriorated and no purpose will be served in keeping the vehicle in custody. Considering the over all facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is inclined to allow this revision by following the principle of law laid down by the Honourable Supreme Court, in the case of ***Sunderbhai Ambalal Desai Vs. State of Gujarat [2002 (10) SCC 283]***.

8. Accordingly, this Criminal Revision Case is allowed, and the order dated 06.12.2024 passed, in Crl.M.P.No.4592 of 2024, by the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar is hereby set aside and the vehicle Ashok Leyland Tipper Lorry bearing Registration No.TN-39-AY-6409 is ordered to be returned to the petitioner for interim custody subject to the confiscation proceedings to be taken by the concern



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

department or by the Court on the following conditions :

(i) the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of **Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only)** as non-refundable deposit for the said vehicle to the credit of the District Mineral Foundation Trust, Thanjavur District;

(ii) On such deposit, the petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs only) with two sureties for a likesum to the satisfaction of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar;

(iii) the vehicle shall be photographed in different angle and the engine and chassis number shall also be photographed in the presence of the Head Clerk of the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar at the cost of the petitioner and the petitioner's signature to be obtained in the backside of the photographs, and the said photographs and CD shall be kept in the case bundle for the purpose of marking them as material objects during trial;

(iv) the petitioner shall deposit the original Registration Certificate of the vehicle before the learned Judicial Magistrate, Thiruvaiyar;

(v) the petitioner shall not alienate and shall not alternate the physical features of the vehicle till the disposal of the case; and



Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

(vi) the petitioner shall produce the vehicle before the Court and before the respondent police as and when required;

24.01.2025

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

- 1.The learned Judicial Magistrate,
Thiruvaiyar, Thanjavur District.
- 2.The Inspector of Police,
Thiruvaiyaru Police Station,
Thanjavur District.
- 3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.



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Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

P.VADAMALAI, J.

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Crl.R.C.(MD)No.81 of 2025

24.01.2025