



WEB COPY



W.P.No.3501 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 12.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY**

W.P.No.3501 of 2026

M.Selvakumar

.. Petitioner

VS

1.The District Collector cum Arbitrator,
Office of the District Collector,
Ariyalur District,
Ariyalur.

2.The Competent Authority cum
Special District Revenue Officer
(Land Acquisition),
National Highways Nos.45C,
Vikkiravandi – Kumbakonam -
Thanjavur Division, Ariyalur District.

3.The Project Director,
National Highways Authority of India,
PIU, Thanjavur.

.. Respondents

(R3 suo motu impleaded vide
order dated 12.02.2026 in
W.P.No.3501 of 2026)

Petition filed under Article 226 of The Constitution of India
praying for the issuance of a writ of mandamus to direct the first
respondent to dispose of petitioner's appeal petition dated
05.04.2019 filed under Section 3G(5) of National Highways Act
No.48 of 1956 (unnumbered, but taken on file) filed against the
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award No.06/2017-2018 dated 24.11.2017 passed by the second respondent in respect of building in Survey No.250/13B in Kundaveli (West) Village, Ariyalur District.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Murugan
For Respondents : Mr.P.Sathish,
Additional Government Pleader
for R1 and R2
Ms.S.R.Sumathy,
Standing Counsel for R3

ORDER

The petitioner's land was acquired by initiating proceedings under the National Highways Act, 1956. Dissatisfied with the compensation determined in respect thereof, the petitioner had initiated proceedings under Section 3G(5) of the National Highways Act before the first respondent. Such proceedings were initiated in 2019. The present writ petition has been filed for the expeditious disposal of such proceeding.

2. Mr.P.Sathish, learned Additional Government pleader accepts notice for respondents1 and 2. He submits that the District Collector was transferred before award could be issued and that a new District Collector has taken charge. He also adds that the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India is a necessary party and should be added as a respondent.

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3. Accepting the submission of learned Additional Government Pleader, Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU, Thanjavur is suo motu joined as third respondent in this writ petition. Ms.S.R.Sumathy, learned standing counsel, accepts notice for the newly impleaded party.

4. Proceedings under the National Highways Act before the District Collector are proceedings under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The said statute prescribes time limit of 12 months from the completion of pleadings for the conclusion of proceedings by the issuance of an appropriate award. Pleadings in the proceedings initiated by the petitioner were long completed. Therefore, it appears *prima facie* that the time limit for conclusion of proceedings by issuance of award may have expired. Considering the nature of proceedings, it is appropriate that the mandate of arbitrator be extended. Accordingly, the mandate of the arbitrator is extended by a period of six months and the first respondent is directed to conclude the proceedings and issue an award within the said period.



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5. This writ petition is disposed of on the above terms without any order as to costs.

12.02.2026

Index:Yes/No
Neutral Citation:Yes/No
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To

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SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY,J.

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