



WEB COPY



W.P. No.15045 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 21.04.2026

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M. DHANDAPANI

W.P. No.15045 of 2026

Lekasri.R (Minor)
Rep.by Her Guardian and Grandmother
Mrs. Govindammal

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Senior Manager
Indance LPG Company
Indane Area Office, Chennai
Door No. 500 Anna Salai
Teynampet, Chennai 600 018.
2. The General Manager
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
Represented by its Managing Director
Indane Area Office, Chennai
Door No. 500 Anna Salai
Teynampet, Chennai 600018.
3. The Deputy General Manager (LPG-S)
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
Indane Area Office, Chennai
Door No. 500 Anna Salai
Teynampet Chennai 600018.
4. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Pvt LTD.,
Registered At ICI Lombard House
414-P Balu Marg Off Veer Sawarkar Marg
Near Siddhivinayagar Temple
Prabhadevi Mumbai 400025.



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5. The Proprietor / Manager
Sri Ambiram Indane Gas Agency
(Indane Distribution)
No. 8/2 Anna Street Rajiv Gandhi Salai (OMR)
Sholinganallur, Chennai 600119.

6. The District Collector
Kancheepuram District.
* Suo motu impleaded as 6th respondent
vide order of even date

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the Respondents to conduct a detailed enquiry into the LPG cylinder explosion accident dated 14.12.2020 and consequently direct the Respondents Jointly and severally to pay adequate compensation to the petitioner for death of both parents, injuries sustained by the minor petitioner, medical expenses, future treatment and loss of care support and livelihood.

For Petitioner : Mr.D. Prasanna Kumar
For Respondents : Mr.Mohammed Fayaz Ali
for R1 to R3

ORDER

The present writ petition has been filed seeking a direction to the respondents to conduct an enquiry into the LPG cylinder explosion dated 14.12.2020 and to grant compensation to the petitioner for the death of her parents and the injuries sustained by her.



2. The case of the petitioner is that she is a minor, represented by her grandmother and guardian. On 14.12.2020, an LPG cylinder explosion occurred at her residence, which was supplied by the 5th respondent. In the said incident, the petitioner's mother died on 15.12.2020 and her father on 18.12.2020 due to burn injuries. The petitioner also sustained grievous injuries and has been under treatment.

3. It is stated that the LPG connection stood in the name of the petitioner's father and that the accident occurred due to leakage/defect in the cylinder. The petitioner has been rendered an orphan and is presently under the care of her aged grandmother.

4. According to the petitioner, despite representations lastly on 11.03.2026, neither any enquiry has been conducted nor any compensation has been paid, though for the alleged accident, it is covered under an Insurance Policy. Hence this writ petition with the aforesaid prayer.

5. Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the accident has resulted in the death of both parents of a minor child and serious injuries to her,



and the respondents are liable to compensate the petitioner. He further submitted that the petitioner, being a minor, has approached this Court through her grandmother, as no effective steps have been taken by the respondents. In view of the above, he prayed for issuance of suitable directions by this Court.

6. Per contra, the learned counsel for the respondents submitted that as per the statutory scheme, the petitioner is required to submit an application under Section 6(2) of The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, before the District Collector for claiming compensation.

7. He also submitted that such application has to be made within the prescribed period of limitation, namely five years from the date of the incident, and the District Collector, upon receipt of such application, would conduct an enquiry on the said incident involving hazardous substances, between the petitioner and the respondents as well as the insurance company, and pass appropriate orders.

8. This Court has considered the submissions made by learned counsel on either side and perused the materials on record.



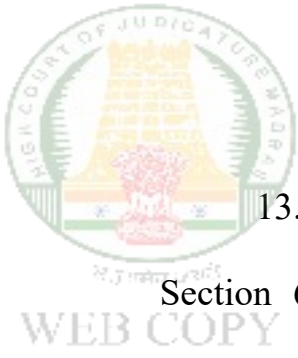
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9. The petitioner, a minor child, has lost both her parents in the LPG cylinder explosion and has also sustained injuries. The claim for compensation involves disputed questions of fact, including the cause of the accident, liability, and quantification of compensation, which require adjudication by the competent authority under the statutory mechanism.

10. In view of the specific procedure contemplated under Section 6(2) of The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, this Court is not inclined to adjudicate the claim on merits in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

11. However, considering the peculiar facts of the case and the status of the petitioner as a minor, this Court is of the view that an opportunity should be granted to the petitioner to approach the competent authority.

12. Accordingly, the District Collector, Kancheepuram, is suo motu impleaded as the 6th respondent.



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13. The petitioner is directed to file an appropriate application under Section 6(2) of The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 before the 6th respondent, within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. On receipt of such application, the 6th respondent shall conduct an enquiry, after affording opportunity to the petitioner and respondents 1 to 5, as well as the concerned insurance company, and pass appropriate orders, in accordance with law, within a period of six weeks thereafter.

14. The writ petition stands disposed of with the above directions. No costs.

21.04.2026

Note : Registry is directed to carry out
necessary amendments in the bundle,
before issuing the order copy.

Index : Yes / No

Speaking Order / Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation Case : Yes / No

vsi2

To

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6/8



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