



WEB COPY

A No. 1787 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 01-07-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE K.KUMARESH BABU

A No. 1787 of 2026

M.Sathyamoorthy

..Applicant(s)

Vs

1. Bharath Petroleum Corporation Limited
Bharath Bhavan,
Rep by its Territory Manager, L.P.G.,
No.4 and 6, Currimbhai road,
Ballard Estae,
Mumbai -9.
2. The Regional Manager
LPG., Bharat Petroleum Coxporation Limited,
Ranganathan Garden,
Amanagar, Chennai.
3. The Territory Manager, LPG,
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited,
No.1644, Peelamedu, Coimbatore - 004.

..Respondent(s)

Judge's Summons filed under Order XIV Rule 8 of O.S. Rules read with Section 29A of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and Section 2(1)(c) (viii) (ix) and Section 7 and Section 10(2) of the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, praying to extend the period under Section 29A(4) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act by six months for completion of the arbitration proceedings by the arbitrator.

For Applicant(s):

M/s.A.L.Ganthimathi
Senior Counsel
For Mr.L.Palanimuthu



For Respondent(s): Mr. Anirudh Krishnan
(For R1 to R3)

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ORDER

This application has been filed to extend the period under Section 29A(4) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act by six months for completion of the arbitration proceedings by the arbitrator.

2. Heard M/s.AL.Ganthimathi, learned Senior Counsel, for Mr.L.Palanimuthu, learned counsel appearing for the applicant and Mr.Anirudh Krishnan, learned counsel appearing for the respondents.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the respondent made a statement that, by virtue of the protection granted by this Court in W.P.No.7291 of 2022 and 1788 of 2023, the advertisement issued by the 1st respondent on 28.12.2022 had not been given effect to and would seek the indulgence of this Court, as the present application had been filed beyond the period of expiry of the mandate.

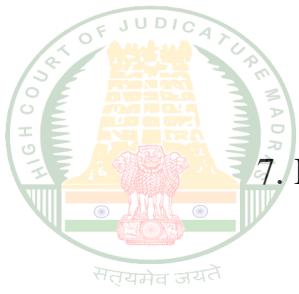
4. The learned Senior Counsel appearing for the applicant would submit that the applicant had approached this Court in Arb.O.P.(Comm.Div.).No.37 of 2026, seeking termination of the mandate and for reconstitution of the Arbitral Tribunal. However, noting that the mandate had expired, this Court, while



leaving it open to the respective parties to raise their objections over the continuation of the learned Arbitrator, if an application under Section 29A is filed, had closed the said petition. Now, the applicant has taken out the present petition, seeking for extension of the mandate and in that regard, she would submit that the applicant had bona fide reasons for earlier approaching this Court under Section 15 read with Section 11 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act earlier.

5. Since the agreement between the parties relates to a dealership agreement for supply of L.P.G, this Court had called upon the learned counsel for the respondents to find out as to how it has been servicing the LPG customers since there has been a prohibition for them to appoint a new dealer in the place of the petitioner. On instructions, he would submit that an existing dealer in the region have been entrusted with the responsibility of supply LPG cylinders. Hence, this Court is of the view that the order passed by this Court in the writ petitions, prohibiting the respondents from proceeding with the advertisement calling for appointment of a new dealer, does not have any impact on the consumers of such LPG cylinders.

6. In view of the consensus between the learned counsels appearing on either side, the mandate of the learned Arbitrator is extended by a period of six (6) weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order.



7. In fine, this application stands ordered. No costs.

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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To

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K.KUMARESH BABU, J.

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