



WA No. 531 of 2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 07-04-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. SURESH KUMAR

and

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N. SENTHILKUMAR

WA No. 531 of 2026

and

CMP No. 5146 of 2026

1. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Secretary,
Environment and Forests Department,
Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Pangal Maaligai,
Jeenis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 015.

..Appellant(s)

Vs

D Sivaji, M/64
S/o. Dharmalingam,
Plot Watcher (Supernumerary Post),
Arani Range,
Thiruvannamalai Division,
Thiruvannamalai Circle.

..Respondent(s)

Prayer: Appeal filed under clause 15 of Letters patent to set aside the order passed in WP No.23881 of 2023 dated 14.08.2023 and allow this Writ Appeal.



WA No. 531 of 2026

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For Appellant(s):

Mr.R.Neethiperumal
Government Advocate

For Respondent(s):

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Judgment

(Judgment of the Court was delivered by N.Senthilkumar J.)

This intra court appeal has been directed against the order passed by the writ Court dated 14.08.2023 made in W.P.No.23881 of 2023.

2.In view of the order that is going to be passed in this Appeal at the admission stage, notice to the respondent is dispensed with.

3.The respondent/writ petitioner was appointed as a Plot Watcher on 12.08.1984 on daily wage basis. Since then, he had rendered his service for over three decades, yet his services were regularized only on 26.09.2017. Although the petitioner's name was included in the State Wide Seniority lists drawn up by the Department in 1994 and 1999, the same was not followed properly was his case. The primary grievance of the petitioner was that while his service was regularized only after a period of 33 years, his juniors specifically one Mr. P. Karupiah was brought into the regular time scale as early as 24.01.1995.



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4. Similarly placed persons, viz., P.Sundaram, P.Govindan and 23 others filed W.P.Nos.15561 of 2006 and 23374 of 2008 before this Court and the same were disposed on 10.03.2008 and 30.10.2009 with a direction to consider their claim for appointment as Forest Watcher on par with their juniors. The Department filed Appeals in W.A.Nos.690 of 2008 and 607 of 2010 against the above said orders and the same were dismissed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court on 13.10.2009 and 29.03.2010 respectively. Subsequently, the department implemented the order of this court vide orders dated 15.11.2010 and 07.01.2010.

5. The Government came out with a Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.64, Environment and Forest (FR2) Department dated 08.03.1999 for preparation of statewide seniority for all Social Forestry Workers and Plot Watchers for the purpose of regularisation. Thereafter, G.O.(2D) No.122, Environment, Climate Change and Forest (FR.2(ii)) Department dated 12.08.2022, was issued in pursuant to the order of this Court in W.P.No.19020 of 2021 for regularising services of similarly placed persons. In light of the above said orders, insofar as the respondent / writ petitioner is concerned, such a gesture has not been shown.



Therefore, he approached the authorities to seek for such a benefit, which was not considered hence the writ petitioner approached the writ court seeking regularization of service for pensionary benefits.

6.The writ court allowed the said writ petition directing the appellants herein to consider the case of the petitioner in light of the above said Government order and to grant him the same benefits as the similarly placed persons.

7.Aggrieved over the same this Writ Appeal has been filed. Regarding the issue of Regularisation of the Plot Watchers who have rendered decades of service, we are of the view that it is no longer *res integra*, as numerous orders have been passed by this Court and implemented by the Government. To deny the respondent the same relief granted to his juniors and other similarly situated persons would amount to discrimination and violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

8.When that being so, the present petitioner alone cannot be singled out. Therefore, the benefit accrued on him since has been denied, the Writ Court has



WA No. 531 of 2026

rightly interfered with the same, we do not propose to interfere with the said approach and the conclusion reached by the Writ Court. Therefore, for all these reasons the present appeal deserves to be rejected. Accordingly, it is dismissed.

9. Therefore, it is hereby directed that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests shall comply with the Government Order and pass necessary orders to that effect regularising the services of the writ petitioner with effect from the date of his initial appointment with all service benefits as directed in the very Government Order itself within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

10. With the above directions, this writ appeal is dismissed. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

(R.S.K.,J.) (N.S.,J.)
07-04-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
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WA No. 531 of 2026

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and
N.SENTHILKUMAR J.
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To
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WA No. 531 of 2026
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Page 6 of 6