



W.P.No.15120 of 2019

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N. SATHISH KUMAR, J.

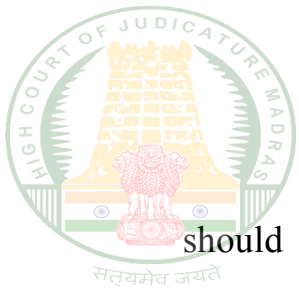
AND

D. BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

(i) The Nilgiris District:-

On 28.02.204, this court had passed an order in respect of erection of boom barriers, recording that necessary proposal has already been sent to the Regional Officer, Ministry of Road Transport, Highways, Chennai, on 02.01.2024. This court had also directed the Regional Officer, Ministry of Road Transport, Highways, Guindy, Chennai, to take a decision on the proposal submitted by the State and sanction appropriate funds as expeditiously as possible, preferably within a period of one month from today.

2. Today, when the matter came up for hearing, Mr.V.Chandrasekar, learned Central Government Standing Counsel who represented the Regional Officer, Ministry of Road Transport (not a party to the writ petition) would submit that what was received by the authority was only a letter of the District Collector. As per the MORTH's extant guidelines, any proposal



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should emanate from the Chief Engineer concerned. Therefore, indicating the same, the authority of the Central Government had written a letter to the Chief Engineer on 26.03.2024 requesting him to send a proposal as per the guidelines of the MORTH. It was also further intimated to him by letter dated 28.03.2023 to intimate the same before this court. The learned Central Government Standing Counsel would further add that if a proposal as per the guidelines of MORTH emanates from the authority concerned, the same would be considered and necessary action would be taken to comply with the order of this court.

3. In the wake of the above, Mr.T.Srinivasan, learned Special government Pleader would submit that he would instruct the Chief Engineer to forthwith send a proposal as requested by the said authority of the Central Government.

4. The Chief Engineer, Integrated Chief Engineer's Office, Guindy, Chennai, shall send a proposal within a period of one week from today and upon receipt of such proposal, necessary orders may be passed by the authority concerned of the Central Government sanctioning appropriate funds within 15 days thereafter.

5. In the mean while, the authorities concerned of the Forest



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Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, are directed to continue their intensive checking at all the check-post to see that banned use-and-throw plastic items do not get into the hill stations.

(ii) Kodaikanal, Dindigul District:-

1. Today, a status report is filed today.
2. Para 3 to 5 of the status report state as follows:

“3. It is submitted that a dedicated check-post has been set up at the Silver Water Falls Vehicle Toll Collection Center, which is mainly operated by the Kodikanal Municipality, to prevent the entry of banned plastic items in the Kodaikanal Municipality and 8 Village Panchayats in the Kodaikanal Upper Hills area. It running under supervision of the concerned panchayat administration. Similarly, plastic check posts have been set up in 9 rural panchayats at Kodaikanal entry point. Self Help Groups, Panchayat level federation and volunteers are doing 24 X 7 plastic checking prevention testing in three shifts, 2 people for each shift. Government and private buses carrying passengers, all types of vehicles carrying tourists, two-wheelers and goods vehicles are subjected to plastic checking.



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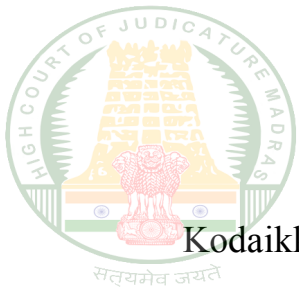
4. It is submitted that 2 police constables are working as support and security for the plastic check work in all plastic check posts based on required of the police.

5. It is submitted that from 27.0.2024 to 26.03.2024 in Kodaikanal Municipality Silver Falls plastic check post 59 kg plastic covers and 631 kg plastic bottles have been confiscated. A fine of Rs.6,700/- has been collected from 3 vehicles. Similarly, 15 kg plastic bags and 53 kg plastic bottles have been confiscated from 27.02.2024 to 26.03.2024 at 9 plastic check posts in the Panchayat area. A fine of Rs.450/- has been imposed on 1 Vehicle.”

3. The said facts are recorded.

4. It is also further stated that the District Administration is taking earnest steps to make Kodaikanal as plastic free.

5. It could be seen from the status report that a number of check-posts have been set up but only 60 personnel have been engaged. In view of the ensuing summer season where inflow of the tourists would get increased manifoldly, the District Administration shall take into account the said factor and accordingly endeavour to increase the manpower so that checking is done in each and every vehicle, which is very much essential in making



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Kodaikkanal as plastic free zone.

WEB COPY 6. Further, it is needless to state that once again an awareness campaign on the ban of single use plastic products has to be taken up in the buses, bus stands and bus stops and its surrounding areas and also at all entry points to the hill stations.

Post on 07.06.2024 for filing further status report.

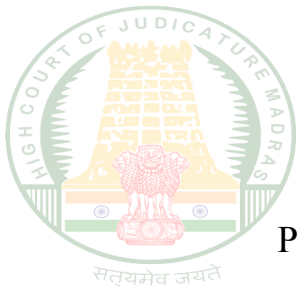
(iii) Meghamalai, Theni District:-

1. Mr.T.Srinivasan, learned Special Government Pleader (Forests) would produce a communication dated 04.04.2024 addressed to him by the Deputy Director, Meghamalai Division.

2. It is stated that check-posts at Thenpalani is maintained. The plastic wastes especially plastic bottles are collected and stored in the check-post for recycling the same. The other plastic wastes are locally collected by Vadugapatti Town Panchayat in Theni District, for disposal.

3. The said facts are recorded.

4. The authorities concerned are directed to ensure appropriate manpower available to undertake the work of checking of vehicles at all relevant point of time. Besides, use of single use plastic products by the local shop(s) or restaurant(s) may also be prohibited. Every effort shall be taken to make Meghamalai as single use plastic products free zone.

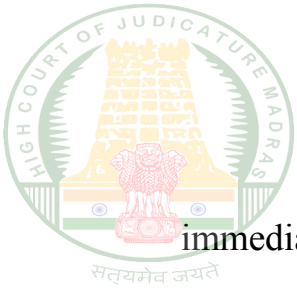


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Post on 07.06.2024 for filing status report.

WEB COPY(iv) Buy Back Scheme:-

1. Today, a status report is filed on behalf of TASMACH.
2. The particulars of amount which are lying in the separate special account is given in para 6 of the status report. The same is recorded.
3. The learned Special Government Pleader would submit that as the process of implementation in every district is proceeding in the right direction as per the target and the same would be completed by June, 2024 and in the other 11 district, as promised, it will be implemented.
- 4, This court had also directed the learned Special Government Pleader to get the particulars from the Municipality and other Garbage Collection Centres in respect of the district in which already buy back scheme is implemented so as to check as to how much bottles are still to reach the Garbage Collection Centres.
5. It is needless to state that broken bottles which are not taken by the contractors are yet to reach the solid waste management centres and if only such particulars are placed before this court, the same could be considered comprehensively. The status report also indicates that an amount around a sum of Rs.10.00 crore is kept in a separate account which would correspondingly show that around 1 crore bottles have not been returned



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immediately on the date of sale. In spite of our earlier directions, absolutely,
no report is placed today.

6. In view thereof, the learned Special Government Pleader seeks further time.

7. The learned Special Government Pleader is directed to produce the above particulars by way of status report on the next date of hearing.

Post on 29.04.2024 for further status report.

(N.S.K.,J.) (D.B.C.,J.)
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