



W.P.Nos.27356 of 2019 and 28266 of 2022

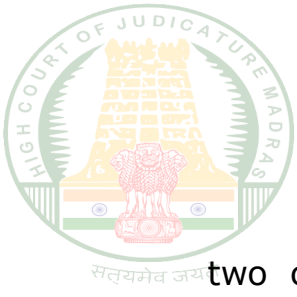
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THE HON'BLE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
and
D.BHARATHA CHAKRAVARTHY, J.

(Order of the Court was made by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice)

A mention was made today at 10.30 A.M. by Mr.S.Muralidharan, petitioner appearing in person in W.P.No.27356 of 2019, that three adult elephants (two female and one Makhna) were electrocuted by an illegal electric live wire near Kalikoundankottai Village on 6.3.2023. In view of the above, two calves that were part of the elephant herd were left out as orphans. Therefore, taking into consideration the urgency involved, the petitioner appearing in person requested this Court to take up this matter. Hence, this Court directed the pending writ petitions pertaining to the protection of elephant corridors to be listed.

2. The petitioner-in-person, who is present in Court, submitted that the two calves that were part of the herd were saved and a direction should be issued to the Forest officials to take care of the



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two calves as per the SOP given by Thiru.Ajay Desai, Elephant Expert.

3. Mr.SP. Chokalingam, learned counsel appearing for the seventh respondent in W.P.No.27356 of 2019, requested this Court to take up this matter at 2.15 P.M. He has also supported the claim made by the petitioner appearing in person stating that suitable measures have to be taken to take care of the two calves, which were left in lurch.

4. When the matter was taken up at 2.15 P.M., Mr.J.Ravindran, learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Dr.T.Seenivasan, learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the Forest Department, submitted that the two calves that were left alone in view of the electrocution of three adult elephants were saved by the officials of the Forest Department. Learned Additional Advocate General would submit that after hearing the news, the Forest officials immediately rushed to the spot and found three adult elephants lying on the ground along with the calves. The calves



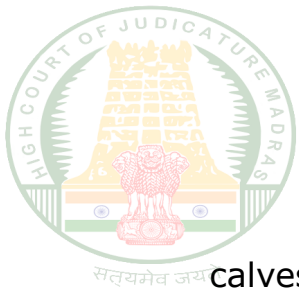
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5. Learned Additional Advocate General further submitted that the accused was apprehended and a case in WLOR No.02 of 2023 was registered against one Murugesan, son of Karuppannan, under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the accused will be remanded now after following the procedure contemplated under law.

6. Although the Forest officials have taken care of the two calves by visiting the spot, taking note of the fact that further safeguards needs to be taken to rear the calves, we passed-over the matter by directing learned Additional Advocate General to take further instructions thereon.

7. At 4.30 P.M. again when the matter was taken up, placing before us the further written instructions, learned Additional Advocate General submitted that for monitoring and feeding the two



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calves, aged about 15-18 months and 5-6 months, respectively, a special team has been formed consisting of the following members under the guidance of Dr.A.Prakash, Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, Hosur:

1. Thiru.P.Natarajan, Forest Range Officer, Palacode Range, Palacode.
2. Thiru.Munusamy, Forester, palacode Range, palacode.
3. Thiru.Munivel, Forest Guard, Forest Protection Squad, Dharmapuri.
4. Thiru.Preethi Chakaravarthy, Forest Guard, Forest Protection Squad, Dharmapuri.
5. Thiru.Arulkumar, Forest Guard, Palacode Range, Palacode.
6. Thiru.Madhesh, Forest Guard, Palacode Range, Palacode.
7. Thiru.Marimuthu, APW
8. Thiru.Srinivasan, ADS
9. Thiru.Sadhasivam, ADS
- 10.Thiru.Murugan, ADS

8. Learned Additional Advocate General submits that pursuant to the suggestion given by the Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, Hosur,



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glucose along with water is being provided to the two calves and lactogen stage-1 along with calcium, potassium, anti-stress supplements will be provided today evening as per the SOP followed in Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur and Mudumalai Elephant Camp, Theppakad, under the supervision of the Assistant Veterinary Surgeon, Hosur.

9. Adding further, learned Additional Advocate General submitted that a separate team has been deputed consisting of staff from Hogenakkal, Pennagaram and Palacode Range for tracking wild elephant herds inside the nearby Reserved Forests. The team also will oversee that these two calves are united with the elephant herds within a period ranging 15 days to one month. Therefore, the apprehension expressed by the petitioner appearing in person has been taken care of by the officials.

10. Accepting the submissions made by learned Additional Advocate General, we give liberty to the special team to take care of the two calves. In case the two calves are not united with wild



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elephant herds inside the Reserved Forests, the same may be transferred to Theppakadu Elephant Camp, Mudumalai as per the instructions given by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wild Life Warden, Chennai.

11. It has been brought to our notice that in order to avoid this type of untoward incident in future, a joint patrolling has to be conducted by the Forest Department along with the Electricity Department to identify the illegal fences and live wires. We hope and trust that the officials of the Forest Department and the Electricity Department will do the needful without any deviation.

12. At this juncture, the petitioner appearing in person suggested that the services of Mr.Boomman, a senior Mahout, can be utilised for the aforesaid purposes, as he is an expert in this field. We leave this suggestion open for consideration by the Forest Department.



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13. Let this matter be listed before the Special Bench for further monitoring of the matter.

(T.R., ACJ.) (D.B.C.,J.)
07.03.2023

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