



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 05-08-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

WP No. 47143 of 2025

Arulmigu Kumarakaudampalayam Mariamman
Kovil Thiruvizha Committee Nanbargal Kuzhu,
Rep By Its President Mr.R. Yuvaraj, No.6/27,
Periyampalayam, Veerachipalayam, Snakari West,
Sankari Taluk, Salem District- 637 303.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Joint Commissioner
Office Of The Joint Commissioner, Department
Of Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious And Charitable
Endowment, Kottai Mariamman Temple
Campus, Behind Old Bus Stand, Mettu Street,
Salem- 636 001.
2. The Deputy Commissioner
Office Of The Joint Commissioner,
Department Of Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious
And Charitable Endowment, Kottai
Mariamman Temple Campus, Behind Old Bus
Stand, Mettu Street, Salem- 636 001.
3. The Inspector And Executive Officer
Department Of Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious
And Charitable Endowment, Old Edappadi
Road, Near Christ Church, Sankari, Salem
District- 637 301.
4. Kuppusamy S/o.Pazhaniyandi
The Hereditary Trustee, Arulmigu Mairamman
Koil, Veerachipalayam Village,
Kumaragoundampalayam, Sankari West,
Salem District- 637 303.
5. The Deputy Director,
Department Of Geology And Mining, Salem.



6. The District Collector,
Salem District. (R5, R6 Suo Motu Impleaded
Vide Order Dated 08.12.2025 Made In
WP.47143/2025 By DBCJ)

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..Respondent(s)

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, writ of mandamus directing the 1st respondent to conduct proper enquiry by summoning all the necessary parties and to take appropriate decision and pass orders on the appeal representation of the petitioner dated 30.07.2025 within the stipulated time limit that may be fixed by this Honble court.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.C.Kulanthaivel

For Respondent(s): Mr.M.Veerabathran Prasanth
Govt.Advocate (H.R&CE)
for R1 to R3
Ms.R.K.Varshini,
Govt.Advocate for R6
Mr.Bhagavath Krishnan PMN
Addl.Govt.Pleader for R5

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed praying for writ of mandamus to direct the 1st respondent to conduct proper enquiry by summoning all the necessary parties and to take appropriate decision and pass orders on the appeal/representation of the petitioner dated 30.07.2025.

2. The petitioner is a registered trust on the file of Sub-Registrar, Sankari, created for the purpose of maintenance of the temple, performing regular poojas



and annual festivals, conducting periodical kumbabishegam, and protecting the properties and income derived from the properties belonging to *Arulmigu Kumarakaundampalayam Mariamman Kovil*. The said temple is under the direct control of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board.

3. The petitioner submits that dry lands comprising 8.42 hectares in S.No.48/2 in Patta No.2 situating in Veerachipalayam village belong to the Mariamman Temple as well as Thannerkattu Perumal Koil situated nearby. It is stated that land measuring about 14 acres out of the total extent in S.No.48/2 was leased out to persons performing poojas in the temple and hereditary trustees. The said hereditary trustees, taking advantage of the lease, colluded with officials and government authorities to grant further lease to M/s.Karuna Mines and Minerals for excavation of valuable minerals such as limestone. The lease was for the period 1974 to 1994, during which thousands of loads of minerals were excavated without any amount being credited to the temple and without maintenance of records either by the hereditary trustees or by the officials of HR&CE.

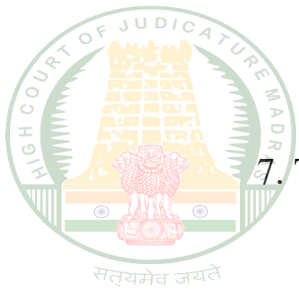
4. The petitioner further states that this Court, by interim order dated 12.09.2023 in W.P.No.25858 of 2023, directed the Joint Commissioner to conduct inspection, verify property registers maintained by the temple



authorities, and proceed with appropriate action. Complaints have also been given in this regard. The petitioner made a specific representation/appeal dated 30.07.2025 to respondents 1 and 2 highlighting the illegalities committed by the hereditary trustees, including misappropriation of income from mining operations, failure to perform poojas and annual festivals, and smuggling of remaining materials dumped in mining pits.

5. Mr.M.Veerabathran Prasanth, learned Government Advocate (HR&CE), submits that action has already been initiated, the 4th respondent has been removed from trusteeship, and no illegal mining activities are presently going on. He further submits that the lease period has expired and the HR&CE department has planted trees in the said lands.

6. Upon hearing both sides, it is revealed that based on the petitioner's representation, respondents 1 to 3 have already initiated appropriate action against the hereditary trustee in respect of leasing out temple properties for mining activities, and presently no mining activity is being carried on. The submissions of the learned Government Advocate are recorded. In the event of any further illegality committed by the 4th respondent, apart from removal from trusteeship, appropriate action shall be taken against the said trustee.



7. This writ petition is disposed of with the above direction. No costs.

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Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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KRISHNAN RAMASAMY, J.

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