



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 22-01-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN

WP No. 901 of 2026

P. Chandrasekaran

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Chief Terminal Officer
Indian Oil Corporation,
Coimbatore Terminal Athappan Gounden Pudur
(Hamlet) Coimbatore 641 103.
2. The Chief General Manager (operations)
Indian Oil Corporation Marketing Division,
Southern Region, Indian Oil Bhavan 139
Uthamar Gandhi Road, Chennai 34

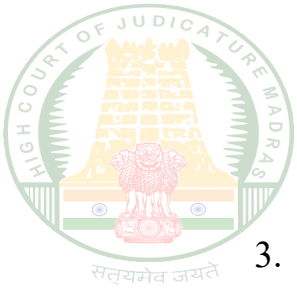
..Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s): Mr.S.Sheik Ismail
For Respondent(s): Mr.Vijay R.Sekar

ORDER

The matter was called at 4.45 p.m. to enable Mr.L.S.M.Hasan Fizal to get instructions from the Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Pollachi.

2. The matter had been referred to by the respondents to the Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Pollachi on the suspicion that the seals and locks on these vehicles bearing Registration Nos. TN-88-K-2049 and TN-88-6651 had been tampered with by the writ petitioner. The vehicles have been in the custody of the respondents from June of 2025.



3. I had gone through the agreement entered into between the writ petitioner and the respondents.

4. *Prima facie*, I am of the view that the agreement does not enable the respondents to retain the vehicles.

5. Mr.Navod Prasannan, learned Standing Counsel for the respondents stated that it was on the direction of the Assistant Controller of Legal Metrology, Pollachi that the vehicles were retained.

6. I have my own doubts as to whether a vehicle, which is a property belonging to a citizen, can be retained on an oral instruction given by the Legal Metrology Department. This would require a counter.

7. Hence, the request of Mr.NavodPrassanan to file a counter is acceded to.

8. Post the writ petition on 10.02.2026 for filing of the counter by the respondents.



9. Mr.L.S.M.Hasan Fizal reports that the inspection of both the vehicles have been completed. Therefore, the necessity to retain the vehicles by the respondents no more exists, assuming, that such a power is available with them.

10. There shall be a direction to the respondents to hand over the vehicles forthwith to the writ petitioner.

11. In case this Court has come to a conclusion at the time of final disposal of this writ petition that the retention of the vehicles by the respondents is unauthorized and unlawful, then, the respondents will be liable for damages to be paid to the writ petitioner.

22-01-2026

Maya

To

1. The Chief Terminal Officer
Indian Oil Corporation,
Coimbatore Terminal Athappan Gounden Pudur (Hamlet) Coimbatore 641
103.
2. The Chief General Manager (operations)
Indian Oil Corporation Marketing Division, Southern Region, Indian Oil
Bhavan 139 Uthamar Gandhi Road, Chennai 34



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V.LAKSHMINARAYANAN, J.

Maya

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