

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT
(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

Monday, the Twenty First day of December Two Thousand Twenty

PRESENT

The Hon`ble Mr.Justice N.KIRUBAKARAN
and
The Hon`ble Mr.Justice B.PUGALENDHI

WP(MD) No.19594 of 2020

1 THE REGISTRAR (JUDICIAL)
MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT, MADURAI

... PETITIONER(S)

Vs

1 THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF
TAMIL NADU
FORT ST.GEORGE,

SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-600 009

2 THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU, SECRETARIAT,
CHENNAI-9

3 THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT,

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU,
SECRETARIAT,

CHENNAI-600 009

4 THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR
MADURAI DIST

5 THE TAHSILDAR
MELUR TALUK, MADURAI DIST

6 THE COMMISSIONER WWW.LIVELAW.IN
MELUR MUNICIPALITY, MELUR, MADURAI

... RESPONDENT(S)

ORDER : The Court Made the following order :-

(Order of the Court was made by N.KIRUBAKARAN,J.)

We have to hang our head in shame for having ill-treated and discriminated the Scheduled Caste people for centuries together. Since they were not properly treated and offences committed against members of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes and rehabilitating the victims, the Central Government passed 'The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989', to give dignity to prevent the crimes against members of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes. The said Act is also sometimes, is allegedly being misused by some people, especially, those who are employed in Government. However, there are aberrations only. Even today, they are not getting properly treated and offences are continuing and they are not getting appropriate basic amenities.

2. One such incident is the case on hand. Lack of road to graveyard forced Scheduled Caste people to pass through agriculture fields with standing crops in Maruthur Colony, Melur Taluk, which has been published at page No.4 of the Dinakaran Newspaper today's issue (21.12.2020). Since there is no road facility available to these people, they are compelled to carry the dead body through the fields with standing crops and put them to unnecessary trouble and untold hardships. Not only living persons, but also dead bodies should be given dignity. The Scheduled Caste people should have roads to graveyards. This news report only reflects that there are no proper pathways/roads to the graveyards. Therefore, this Court thinks it fit to take the above issue reported in the newspaper as a Suo Motu Public Interest Litigation by making the

following officials as respondents:

~~(i) The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
— State of Tamil Nadu,
— Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department,
— Secretariat, Chennai-600 009;~~

~~(ii) The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
— State of Tamil Nadu,
— Revenue Department,
— Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.~~

~~(iii) The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
— State of Tamil Nadu,
— Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department,
— Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.~~

~~3. Mr.M.Muthugeethaiyan, learned Special Government Pleader takes
notice for the respondents.~~

~~4. The respondents are directed to file a report with regard to the
following queries:~~

~~(a) How many Scheduled Caste Habitations are located in the State of Tamil
Nadu?~~

~~(b) Whether all the Scheduled Caste Habitations have got drinking water
facilities, street lights and toilet facilities as well as roads to the graveyards?~~

~~(c) How many Habitations do not have roads to graveyards?~~

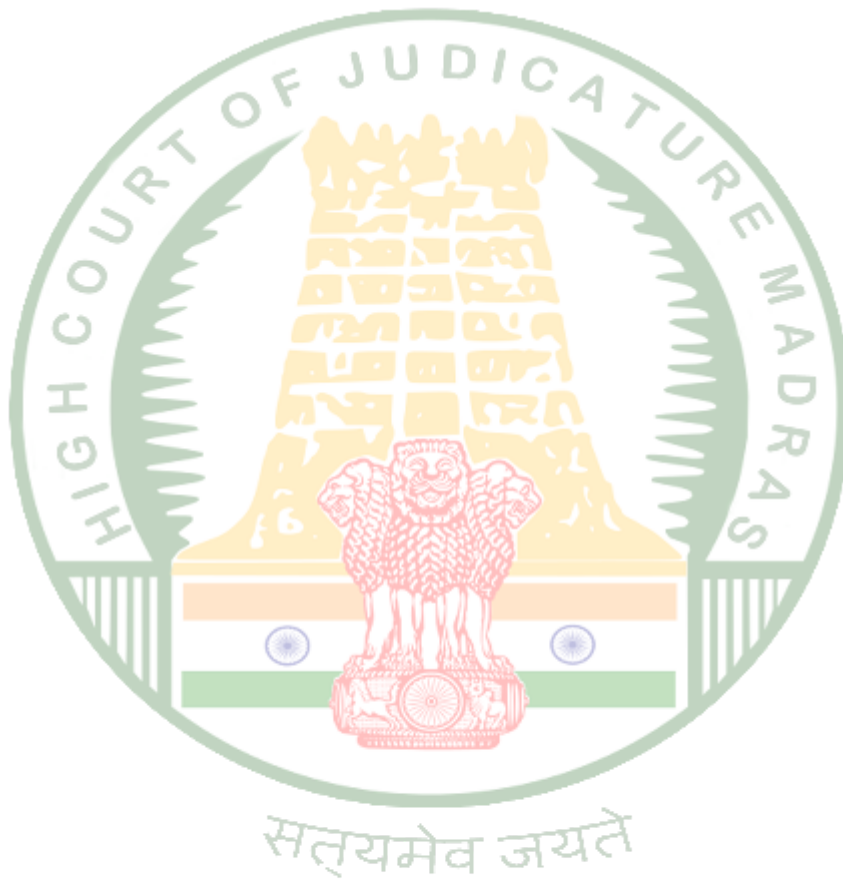
~~(d) What are all the steps taken, including the acquiring of lands for laying of
roads for graveyards?~~

~~(e) By what time, all the Schedule Castes Habitations would be provided with
water facilities, street lights toilet facilities as well as pathways to the
graveyards?~~

~~5. Mr.M.Muthugeethaiyan, learned Special Government Pleader appearing
for the respondents undertakes to file response by 20.01.2021. As far as
Maruthur Colony is concerned, the learned Special Government Pleader shall get
instructions on 23.12.2020.~~

~~6. Call on 23.12.2020~~

21/12/2020



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