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Contempt Petition No.2012 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 13.10.2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE Mr. JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

**CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 2012 of 2025
AND
SUB APPL NO. 974 OF 2025**

Arappor Iyakkam,
Rep by its Managing Trustee Jayaram Venkatesan,
No. 7, Satya Plaza 2nd Floor, Dr.Thirumoorthy Nagar
Main Road, Chennai - 600034.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

Tmt. S.Vimala IPS.,
Investigating Officer - SIC
Directorate of Vigilance and Anti – Corruption
No. 293, MKN Road, Alandur, Chennai - 600 016.

Contemnor(s)

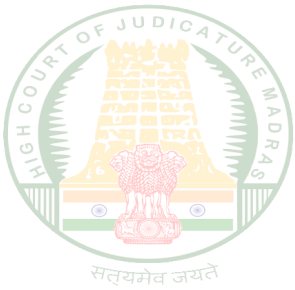
For Petitioner(s): Mr.D.Nagasaila

For Contemnor(s): Mr.E.Raj Tilak
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

This Court disposed of the Criminal Original Petitions in CrI.O.P.No.3491
of 2023 & etc., batch on 02.08.2023 in the following terms :

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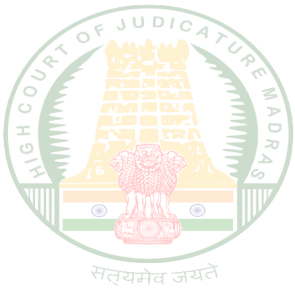
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“14. In the light of the above discussion, all these Criminal Original Petitions are disposed of with a direction to the DVAC to file the final report before the concerned jurisdictional Court after getting the necessary sanction order against some of the public servants, who have been added as an accused in the final report. This process shall be completed within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of copy of the order. Consequently, all connected pending Crl.M.Ps. are closed.”

2. This Court fixed a specific time frame for filing the final report before the concerned jurisdictional Court after getting necessary sanction against some of the public servants who were added as accused in this case.

3. Contempt Petition No.788 of 2024 was filed by the petitioner on the ground that the order passed by this Court in Crl.OP.No.3491 of 2023 & etc. batch, has not been complied with and the final report was not filed before the concerned jurisdictional Court within the time frame fixed by this Court. This contempt petition came to be disposed of by an order dated 05.04.2024 in the following terms :

“2. When the matter was taken up for hearing, the learned



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Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent submitted that the final report has already been filed before the Special Court on 1.3.2024 under CNR Nos.TNCH080002252024 and TNCH080002262024, Special Court, Chennai. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor further submitted that presently the documents are under scrutiny and that the case will be numbered shortly.

3. Recording the above submission, there shall be a direction to the Special Court to act upon the final report within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order.”

4. The above order was passed by this Court on a bonafide impression that the entire process has been completed in terms of getting sanction and thereafter police report was filed before the concerned jurisdictional Court. Therefore, this Court directed the Special Court to act upon the final report, within a period of two weeks.

5. When the above order was passed, this Court was not aware of the fact that sanction was not obtained for some of the public servants. Be that as it may, the present Contempt Petition was filed once again by the petitioner on the ground that the final report has not been filed inspite of the earlier directions



given by this Court. In the light of this allegation made in the affidavit filed in support of the contempt petition, this Court once again entertained the contempt petition and directed the learned Additional Public Prosecutor to take instructions. This Court directed the Special Court to submit a report to this Court with regard to the earlier direction that was given by this Court in Contempt Petition No.788 of 2024 by order dated 05.04.2024. This Court also directed the respondent to explain as to why there is a substantial delay in obtaining sanction in this case.

6. When the contempt petition came up for hearing on 01.09.2025, an additional affidavit was filed by the respondent. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor also produced the copy of G.O.(Ms) No.567 dated 30.08.2025, wherein sanction was accorded against one of the public servant who had served as Deputy Commissioner of Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation. It was brought to the notice of the Court that, sanction is still awaited for two more I.A.S., officers.

7. The stand that was taken in the additional affidavit filed by the

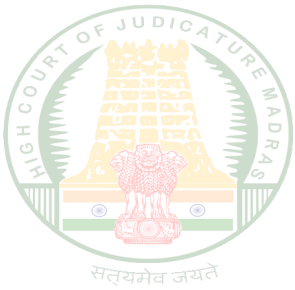


respondent is as follows :

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“12. With regard to obtaining sanction of prosecution, it is submitted that sanction has been accorded against several officials. To obtain Sanction Orders for IAS officers, proposals have been approved by the State Government and the process to forward it to Competent Authority i.e., the Union Government is under progress. In respect of Tmt.P.Gandhimathi, formerly Deputy Commissioner, Coimbatore Corporation, the proposal is under active process. Repeated reminders have been issued by the respondent to expedite sanction.

Sl. No.	Name and Designation of Accused Officers	Competent Authority	G.O. Regarding the Sanction of Prosecution
1	Thiru.S.P.Velumani, S/o.E.A.Palanisamy, Former Minister of Municipal Administration, Govt. of Tamil Nadu	The Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly	Proceeding No.5967/2023-3/Bills III, dated : 12.02.2024
2	Tr.M.Pugalendi, Chief Engineer (Retd.), Greater Chennai Corporation	Principal Secretary to Government	G.O.(4D) No.3 of Municipal Administration and Water Supply (ME-4) Department dated 23.01.2024
3	Tr.L.Nandakumar, formerly Superintending Engineer		
4	Tr.R.C.Paramasivam, Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Corporation (Retd.)	Principal Secretary to Government	G.O.(4D) No.4 of Principal Secretary to Government of Municipal Administration and Water Supply (ME-4) Department dated 23.01.2024
5	Tr.K.Saravanakumar, Assistant Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Corporation		



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<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name and Designation of Accused Officers</i>	<i>Competent Authority</i>	<i>G.O. Regarding the Sanction of Prosecution</i>
6	<i>Tr.S.P.Ravikannan, Assistant Engineer, Solid Waste Management, Coimbatore Corporation</i>		
7	<i>Tr.K.S.Kandasamy, I.A.S.,</i>	<i>Union Government</i>	<i>Still awaited</i>
8	<i>Maru.Ka.Vijaya Karthikeyan, I.A.S.,</i>	<i>Union Government</i>	<i>Still awaited</i>
9	<i>Tmt.P.Gandhimathi</i>	<i>Public Secretary to Government</i>	<i>Still awaited</i>

It is clear from the above that as on the date when the additional affidavit was filed, sanction was yet to be obtained for two I.A.S., officers from the Union Government and it was stated in the additional affidavit that the respondent is in the process of forwarding the proposal to the Union Government.

8. This Court granted leave to the petitioner to file a reply affidavit after going through the stand that was taken by the respondent in the counter affidavit as well as in the additional counter affidavit that were filed in this contempt petition. Accordingly, when the matter was taken up for hearing on 19.09.2025, a reply affidavit was filed by the petitioner. This Court directed the learned Additional Public Prosecutor to respond to the reply affidavit filed by

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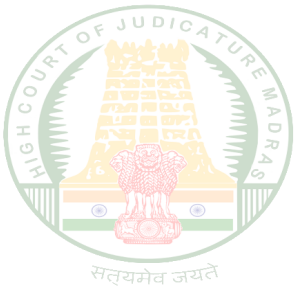


the petitioner and to inform this Court on the further course of action that was taken for getting sanction for two I.A.S., officers from the Union Government.

9. When the matter was taken up for hearing today, a status report was filed by the respondent. The relevant portions are extracted hereunder :

“7) It is respectfully submitted that, the Government of Tamil Nadu submitted a proposal to obtain sanction for prosecution for Thiru.K.S.Kandasamy, I.A.S., formerly Deputy Commissioner (Works), Greater Chennai Corporation, and Thiru.Maru.Ka.Vijaya Karthikeyan, I.A.S., formerly Commissioner, Coimbatore Corporation, before the Government of India on 30.08.2025. The Government of India returned the proposal on 01.09.2025 and requested its re-submission in accordance with the revised checklist prescribed in the Department of Personnel and Training's Letter No.428/10/2021-AVD/IV(B), dated 18.10.2024, under the single-window system. Accordingly, the Government has sent a letter to the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption to re-submit the proposal as per the revised checklist format.

*8) It is further submitted that, as per checklist Sl.No.7 **“If the relevant documents are in vernacular languages, whether authenticated translation of the document has been provided?”**. Accordingly, documents in Tamil are required to be translated into English. In Allegation-I, there are 48 Tamil Documents (Relevant) and 28 Tamil Statement (Relevant), comprising 2503 Tamil pages.*



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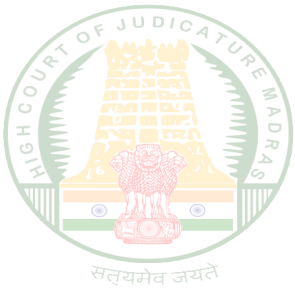


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In Allegation-II, there are 123 Tamil Documents (Relevant) and 39 Tamil Statement (Relevant) comprising 9712 Tamil pages. In total, there are 238 relevant documents and 67 statements in Tamil, comprising 12,215 pages, which need to be translated into English. So far, in Allegation-I, a total of 48 documents and 10 statement comprising 1580 pages have been translated from Tamil to English. The translation of the remaining documents is currently in progress.

9) It is further submitted that, as a part of the investigation, proposals seeking sanction for prosecution against the public servants involved have been duly prepared and forwarded through proper channel by the respondent after careful scrutiny of the records. The respondent has thus taken all steps within jurisdiction to ensure that the matter is pursued diligently, and no delay is attributable to any omission on her part.”

10. This Court heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the respondent. The learned counsel for the petitioner relied on the judgment of the Apex Court in ***Vijay Rajmohan Vs State Represented by the Inspector of Police, CBI, ACB, Chennai, Tamil Nadu***, reported in ***2022 SCC OnLine SC 1377***. Specific reliance was placed upon the following paragraphs by the learned counsel for the petitioner :



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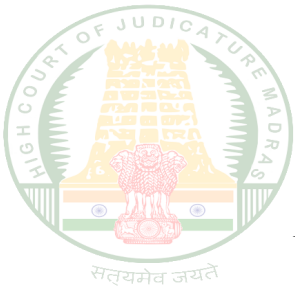


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23. Statutory provisions requiring sanction before prosecution either under Section 197 Cr.P.C or under Section 97 of the PC Act also intend to serve the very same purpose of protecting a public servant. These protections are not available to other citizens because of the inherent vulnerabilities of a public servant and the need to protect them. However, the said protection is neither a shield against dereliction of duty nor an absolute immunity against corrupt practices. The limited immunity or bar is only subject to a sanction by the appointing authority.

24. Grant of sanction being an exercise of executive power, it is subject to the standard principles of judicial review such as application of independent mind; only by the competent authority, without bias, after consideration of relevant material and by eschewing irrelevant considerations. As the power to grant sanction for prosecution has legal consequences, it must naturally be exercised within a reasonable period. This principle is anyway inbuilt in our legal structure, and our Constitutional Courts review the legality and propriety of delayed exercise of power quite frequently. In *Mahendra Lal Das v. State of Bihar* [(2002) 1 SCC 149] and *Ramanand Chaudhary v. State of Bihar* [(2002) 1 SCC 153], this Court found it expedient to quash the criminal proceedings due to the abnormal delay in granting a sanction for prosecution.

25. Noticing that there is no legislation prescribing the period within which a decision for sanction is to be taken, this Court, in *Vineet*



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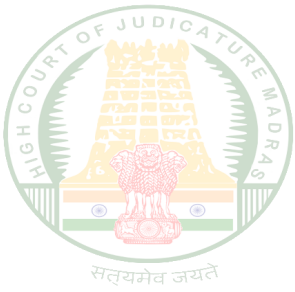
Narain [Vineet Narain v. Union of India, (1998) 1 SCC 226 : 1998 SCC (Cri) 307], sought to fill the gap by setting a normative prescription of three months for grant of sanction.

"58. (I)(15) Time-limit of three months for grant of sanction for prosecution must be strictly adhered to. However, additional time of one month may be allowed where consultation is required with the Attorney General (AG) or any other law officer in the AG's office."

26. Legislative reforms for expeditious grant of sanction for prosecution started with the enactment of the CVC Act, whereunder Parliament has expressly empowered CVC under Section 8(1)(f) of the CVC Act to review the progress of applications for sanction

*27. While exercising the powers under Section 8(1)(f), CVC has been issuing guidelines and instructions to various departments for expeditious disposal of requests for sanction. Despite these legislative changes and administrative guidelines, delay in granting sanctions continued. In **Subramanian Swamy's** case [Subramanian Swamy v. Manmohan Singh, (2012) 3 SCC 64 : (2012) 1 SCC (Cri) 1041 : (2012) 2 SCC (L&S) 666], this Court suggested that Parliament may consider prescribing clear time-limits for the grant of sanction and to provide for a deemed sanction by the end of the period if no decision is taken.*

"81. In my view, Parliament should consider the constitutional imperative of Article 14 enshrining the rule of law wherein "due process of law" has been read into by introducing a time-limit in Section 19 of the PC Act, 1988 for its working in a reasonable manner. Parliament may, in my opinion, consider the following guidelines:



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(a) All proposals for sanction placed before any sanctioning authority empowered to grant sanction for prosecution of a public servant under Section 19 of the PC Act must be decided within a period of three months of the receipt of the proposal by the authority concerned.

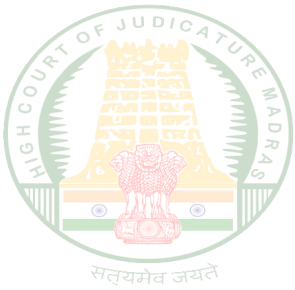
(b) Where consultation is required with the Attorney General or the Solicitor General or the Advocate General of the State, as the case may be, and the same is not possible within the three months mentioned in clause (a) above, an extension of one month period may be allowed, but the request for consultation is to be sent in writing within the three months mentioned in clause (a) above. A copy of the said request will be sent to the prosecuting agency or the private complainant to intimate them about the extension of the time-limit.

(c) At the end of the extended period of time-limit, if no decision is taken, sanction will be deemed to have been granted to the proposal for prosecution, and the prosecuting agency or the private complainant will proceed to file the charge-sheet/complaint in the court to commence prosecution within 15 days of the expiry of the aforementioned time-limit."

28. Yet another legislative development took place in 2018 when Parliament, by way of an amendment to the PC Act, inserted the following provisos to Section 19 of the PC Act:

"19. Previous sanction necessary for prosecution.—

(1) No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under Sections 7, 11, 13 and 15 alleged to have been committed by a public servant, except with the previous sanction [save as otherwise provided in the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013]—



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(a) in the case of....

(b) in the case of....

(c) in the case of....

Provided further that....

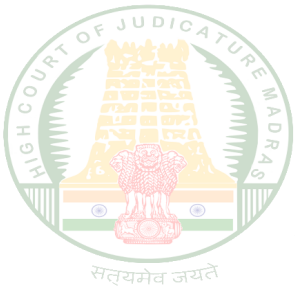
Provided also that the appropriate Government or any competent authority shall, after the receipt of the proposal requiring sanction for prosecution of a public servant under this sub-section, endeavour to convey the decision on such proposal within a period of three months from the date of its receipt:

Provided also that in case where, for the purpose of grant of sanction for prosecution, legal consultation is required, such period may, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a further period of one month:

Provided also that the Central Government may, for the purpose of sanction for prosecution of a public servant, prescribe such guidelines as it considers necessary.....”

29. *The new proviso to Section 19 mandating that the competent authority shall endeavour to convey the decision on the proposal for sanction within a period of three months can only be read and understood as a compelling statutory obligation. We are not inclined to accept the submission of the learned ASG that this proviso is only directory in nature. In the first place, the consistent effort made by all branches of the State, the judiciary, the legislative, and the executive, to ensure early decision-making by the competent authority cannot be watered down by lexical interpretation of the expression endeavour in the proviso.*

30. *The sanctioning authority must bear in mind that public confidence in the maintenance of the rule of law, which is fundamental in*



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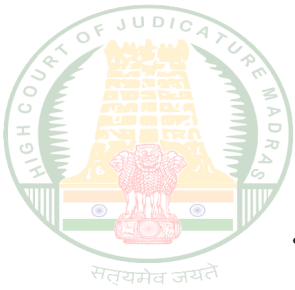


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the administration of justice, is at stake here. By causing delay in considering the request for sanction, the sanctioning authority stultifies judicial scrutiny, thereby vitiating the process of determination of the allegations against the corrupt official Subramanian Swamy [Subramanian Swamy v. Manmohan Singh, (2012) 3 SCC 64 : (2012) 1 SCC (Cri) 1041 : (2012) 2 SCC (L&S) 666] . Delays in prosecuting the corrupt breeds a culture of impunity and leads to systemic resignation to the existence of corruption in public life. Such inaction is fraught with the risk of making future generations getting accustomed to corruption as a way of life. Viewed in this context, the duty to take an early decision inheres in the power vested in the appointing authority to grant or not to grant sanction. In fact, the Statement of Objects and Reasons for the 2018 Amendment of Section 19 clearly explain the purpose as under:

“2(i) ... Further, in the light of a recent judgment of the Supreme Court, the question of amending Section 19 of the Act to lay down clear criteria and procedure for sanction of prosecution, including the stage at which sanction can be sought, timelines within which order has to be passed, was also examined by the Central Government and it is proposed to incorporate appropriate provisions in Section 19 of the Act.”

31. The intention of Parliament is evident from a combined reading of the first proviso to Section 19, which uses the expression “endeavour” with the subsequent provisions. The third proviso mandates that the extended period can be granted only for one month after reasons are recorded in writing. There is no further extension. The fourth proviso, which empowers the Central Government to prescribe necessary



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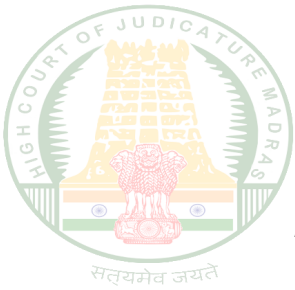
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guidelines for ensuring the mandate, may also be noted in this regard. It can thus be concluded that Parliament intended that the process of grant of sanction must be completed within four months, which includes the extended period of one month.

*32. If it is mandatory for the sanctioning authority to decide in a time-bound manner, the consequence of non-compliance with the mandatory period must be examined. This is a critical question having no easy answer. In **Subramanian Swamy**, this Court suggested that Parliament may consider providing deemed sanction if a decision is not taken within the prescribed period. The appellant herein contends the very opposite that the criminal proceedings must be quashed if the decision is not taken within the prescribed period.*

33. In the first place, non-compliance with a mandatory period cannot and should not automatically lead to the quashing of criminal proceedings because the prosecution of a public servant for corruption has an element of public interest having a direct bearing on the rule of law. This is also a non-sequitur. It must also be kept in mind that the complainant or victim has no other remedy available for judicial redressal if the criminal proceedings stand automatically quashed. At the same time, a decision to grant deemed sanction may cause prejudice to the rights of the accused as there would also be non-application of mind in such cases.

34. It is in between these competing interests that the Court must maintain the delicate balance. While arriving at this balance, the Court



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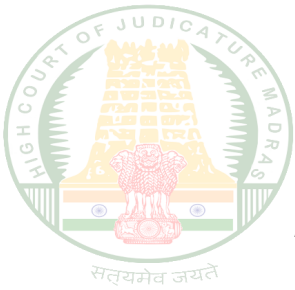
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must keep in mind the duty cast on the competent authority to grant sanction within the stipulated period of time. There must be a consequence of dereliction of duty to giving sanction within the time specified. The way forward is to make the appointing authority accountable for the delay in the grant of sanction.

35. Accountability in itself is an essential principle of administrative law. Judicial review of administrative action will be effective and meaningful by ensuring accountability of the officer or authority in charge.

36. The principle of accountability is considered as a cornerstone of the human rights framework. It is a crucial feature that must govern the relationship between “duty bearers” in authority and “right holders” affected by their actions. Accountability of institutions is also one of the development goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 and is also recognised as one of the six principles of the Citizens Charter Movement.

37. Accountability has three essential constituent dimensions : (i) responsibility, (ii) answerability, and (iii) enforceability. Responsibility requires the identification of duties and performance obligations of individuals in authority and with authorities. Answerability requires reasoned decision-making so that those affected by their decisions, including the public, are aware of the same. Enforceability requires appropriate corrective and remedial action against lack of responsibility and accountability to be taken. Accountability has a corrective function,



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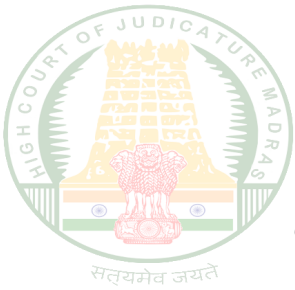


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making it possible to address individual or collective grievances. It enables action against officials or institutions for dereliction of duty. It also has a preventive function that helps to identify the procedure or policy which has become non-functional and to improve upon it.

38. Accountability, as a principle of administrative law, when applied to the issue that we are dealing with, translates in this manner. Responsibility for grant of sanction for prosecution of a public servant under Section 19 of the PC Act is always vested in the appointing authority. Identification of appointing authority is always clear and straightforward. The 2018 Amendment specifically obligates the appointing authority to convey the decision within three months and to provide for the reasons to be recorded in writing for the extended period of one month. This amendment, in fact, evidences legislative incorporation of answerability, the second constituent of accountability. For enforceability, Parliament has expressly empowered the Central Vigilance Commission under Section 8(1)(f) of the CVC Act to review the progress of the applications pending with the competent authorities, and this function must take within its sweep the power to deal with the consequences of failure of the competent authority to comply with its statutory duty. This power and responsibility of CVC is clear from the provisions of the statute and decipherable from functions entrusted to it.

39. In conclusion, we hold that upon expiry of the three months and the additional one-month period, the aggrieved party, be it the complainant, accused or victim, would be entitled to approach the writ



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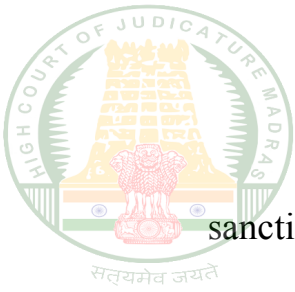


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court concerned. They are entitled to seek appropriate remedies, including directions for action on the request for sanction and for the corrective measure on accountability that the sanctioning authority bears. This is especially crucial if the non-grant of sanction is withheld without reason, resulting in the stifling of a genuine case of corruption. Simultaneously, CVC shall enquire into the matter in the exercise of its powers under Sections 8(1)(e) and (f) and take such corrective action as it is empowered under the CVC Act.

40. The second issue is answered by holding that the period of three months, extended by one more month for legal consultation, is mandatory. The consequence of non-compliance with this mandatory requirement shall not be quashing of the criminal proceeding for that very reason. The competent authority shall be accountable for the delay and be subject to judicial review and administrative action by CVC under Section 8(1)(f) of the CVC Act.”

11. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that Section 19 of the Prevention and Corruption Act, prescribes the time limit for granting sanction. The maximum time limit of four months has been stipulated under Section 19 of the Act. It was submitted that even though the non-compliance of mandatory period will not automatically lead to quashing the criminal proceedings, the concerned authority must take the responsibility of getting the



sanction within the time prescribed, failing which, they must face the consequences.

12. The learned counsel submitted that in the case in hand, the order was passed by this Court as early as August 2023, and till date, even sanction has not been obtained with respect to two of the I.A.S., officers. It was further submitted that if the petitioner had not moved this contempt petition, the entire process would have come to a grinding halt, and that even during the pendency of this contempt petition, no substantial progress has been shown by the respondent. Therefore, it was submitted that this Court has to necessarily proceed against the respondent for dereliction of duty.

13. Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the respondent had vigilantly followed up in getting sanction to prosecute the accused persons. Even before the contempt petition was filed before this Court, sanction has been obtained on 12.02.2024 with respect to the former Minister of Municipal Administration and on 23.01.2024 with respect to five other accused persons from the Principal Secretary to Government of Municipal



Administration and Water Supply (ME-4) Department. The sanction for three other officers alone were pending when the first contempt petition was filed before this Court.

14. The learned counsel submitted that the final report was in fact filed before the concerned Court in order to comply with the directions issued by this Court. However, it was done without obtaining sanction for three of the officers.

15. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that insofar as Tmt.P.Gandhimathi who was the Deputy Commissioner of Coimbatore Corporation at that relevant point of time, sanction has been obtained on 30.08.2025. Hence, insofar as the sanction that has to be obtained at the State Government level, the same has been fulfilled. That left with two more accused persons for whom the sanction has to be obtained from the Union Government. When the proposal was sent to the Union Government on 30.08.2025, the proposal was returned back by the Union Government on 01.09.2025, requesting the respondent to re-submit the proposal with the



revised checklist prescribed in the Department of Personnel and Training's letter

dated 18.10.2024. As per Sl.No.7 of the checklist, if the relevant documents

are in vernacular language, the authenticated translation of the documents has to

be provided. Immediately, on receipt of the communication from the concerned

Department, steps were taken for translation of the documents in Tamil

language. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor further submitted that

totally 12,215 pages in Tamil language have to be translated and out of that,

with the available translators, translation of 1,580 pages were completed.

Considering the fact that the process has to be completed at the earliest, the

Government has also passed G.O.(D) No.149 dated 11.10.2025, allocating

funds to the tune of Rs.30,00,000/- towards the total cost of translation. On

receipt of the same, additional translators are being engaged and the entire

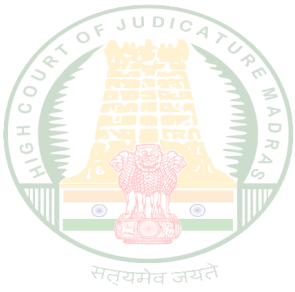
translation work will be completed within a period of four weeks and the

proposal will be re-submitted to the Union Government. The learned

Additional Public Prosecutor also submitted that the respondent was following

up with the process of sanction at every stage and there was no contumacious

conduct on the part of the respondent.

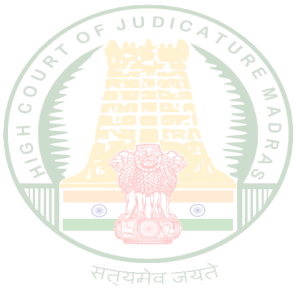


16. In the considered view, this Court is of the *prima facie* opinion that that the respondent has not accorded due attention that was expected to be given for the order passed by this Court in Crl.OP.Nos3491 of 2023 & batch etc., on 02.08.2023. When this order was passed, this Court was dealing with a situation where one of the former Minister was alleged to have involved in corrupt practices during the period from 2014 to 2018, and an FIR came to be registered in this regard in Crime No.16/2021 and the accused persons were identified and the investigation was completed and it was at the stage of filing of police report. Considering the same, this Court expected the respondent to give top priority to this case. Since corruption cases at the higher level involves public interest, it has to be dealt with alacrity and has to be brought to its logical conclusion at the earliest.

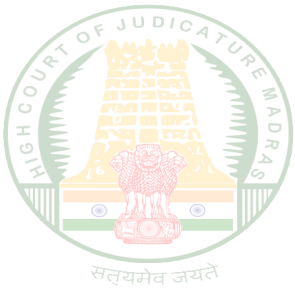
17. If the respondent was not in a position to complete the process of filing the police report within the time frame fixed by this Court, a duty was cast on the respondent to approach this Court and seek for extension of time to comply with the directions. No such effort was taken by the respondent and the criminal case was once again revived and it started gaining momentum only



after the earlier contempt petition was filed by the petitioner in Contempt Petition No.788 of 2024. If the respondent had any valid reasons for not being able to comply with the directions within the time frame fixed by this Court, it is the bounden duty of the respondent to approach the Court and seek for extension of time. When directions are issued by this Court, more particularly in cases involving corruption at higher level, such directions cannot be taken lightly and the time frame fixed by the Court has to be strictly adhered to. As was held by the Apex Court in *Vijay Rajmohan* case referred supra, the mandatory time limit stipulated under Section 19 has to be complied with, failing which, the concerned authority must be made accountable for the delay in granting the sanction. The Apex Court also specifically placed reliance upon Section 8(1)(b) and 8(1)(f) of Central Vigilance Commission Act. The Apex Court has made it clear that even though the delay in obtaining sanction cannot result in quashing the criminal proceedings, it would necessarily have a consequence in terms of proceeding against the concerned authority who was responsible for the delay in granting the sanction. This Court has to necessarily keep in mind the above ratio laid down by the Apex Court.



18. As on date, the sanction is yet to be obtained for two of the I.A.S., officers, from the Union Government. The respondent has taken a stand that they had submitted a proposal in line with the earlier circular, without translating the documents which are in the vernacular language. It is contended by the respondent that they became aware of the fact that the documents in vernacular language ought to have been translated, only when the Union Government returned back the proposal. This stand taken by the respondent is unsustainable. The revised check-list came into effect through letter dated 18.10.2024 issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India. The respondent who is a specialised agency dealing only with corruption cases, is expected to know about this procedure, which is in force from 18.10.2024. That apart, the respondent was also aware of the fact that, sanction for the two I.A.S., officers, must be obtained from the Union Government. If that is the case, the respondent should have started the translation process of the documents in vernacular language at the earliest point of time. The respondent cannot feign ignorance of the letter dated 18.10.2024. Therefore, the explanation given by the respondent for the delay in getting sanction with respect to two I.A.S., officers from the Union Government, is not satisfactory.



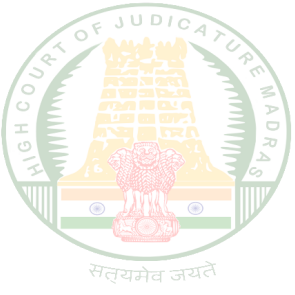
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19. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the translation process will be completed within a period of four weeks and thereafter, the proposal will be submitted to the Union Government. In such an event, the papers are going to reach the Union Government only after four to six weeks from now. The Union Government will take its own time to accord or deny sanction. As a result, the case is going to remain in limbo for some more time.

20. This Court finds that the respondent has not complied with the directions given by this Court in letter and spirit and the explanation is forthcoming from the respondent only after the contempt petition was filed by the petitioner. If the respondent was serious enough to comply with the directions of this Court, as stated supra, the respondent ought to have filed an application seeking for extension of time by explaining the reasons for the delay in getting the sanction. If this process is not adopted by the respondent, this Court can only draw an inference that the respondent was not serious



enough to comply with the directions issued by this Court. This apart, the fact that the respondent was aware about the revised check-list which came into force on 18.10.2024, and inspite of the same, the respondent has not chosen to translate the documents in vernacular language and submit the proposal before the Union Government. This conduct on the part of the respondent certainly hovers around contumacious conduct. This Court is inclined to show more seriousness in this case, since cases involving former Ministers, I.A.S. Officers etc., must be dealt with, in an expeditious manner to bring public faith in the system. If such criminal cases are ambushed by a long drawn procedure, the case itself will lose the steam by efflux of time and everyone will forget about that case. Keeping this in mind, this Court wants to pass further orders in this contempt petition after getting the explanation from the respondent for the above observations made by this Court. This Court wants to keep this contempt petition pending to ensure that the process of translation is completed expeditiously in order to re-submit the proposal before the Union Government to get sanction for the two I.A.S., officers.



Contempt Petition No.2012 of 2025

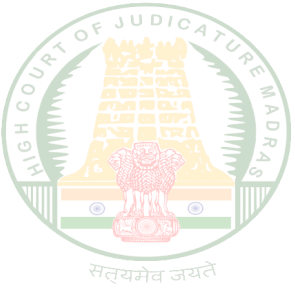
Post this contempt petition on 10.11.2025 at 2.15 p.m.,

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13-10-2025

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To
The Investigating Officer - SIC
Directorate of Vigilance and Anti - Corruption,
No. 293, MKN Road,
Alandur, Chennai - 600 016.



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Contempt Petition No.2012 of 2025

N. ANAND VENKATESH., J

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Contempt Petition No.2012 of 2025

13.10.2025

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