

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.08.2020
CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.M.SUNDRESH
and
THE HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE R.HEMALATHA

W.P.Nos. 8768 and 8974 of 2020

R.R.Gopaljee

Publisher Dinamalar

(trichy Vellore Division), TVR House,

No.57, Second Floor,

Pantheon Road, Egmore,

Chennai - 8.

..Petitioner in both W.Ps

Vs

1.Principal Secretary/Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department,
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34.

2.Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 9.

..Respondents in both W.Ps

Writ petitions filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of mandamus directing the first respondent to modify Circular Na.Ka.No.14836/2020/11 dated 21.04.2020 to include all the people who are dependent on the temples under the control of the first respondent and direct the first respondent to pass appropriate instructions under Section 35(2) of The Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act to make appropriate arrangements for financial assistance to all skilled semi-skilled and unskilled individuals without limitation but including archakas, Battacharyas, pujaris, adyapakas, vedaparayanikas, othuvars, musicians, torch bearers etc., who work for the temples under the control of the first respondent.

For Petitioner	..	Mr.Kaushik N.Sharma in both W.Ps
For Respondents	..	Mr.G.K.Muthukumar, Spl. Govt. Pleader

COMMON ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by M.M.SUNDRESH, J.)

These public interest litigations have been filed seeking a direction to the first respondent to modify Circular in Na.Ka.No.14836/2020/11 dated 21.04.2020 including all persons who are working in the temples to be given the benefits.

2.In the counter affidavit filed by the respondents, certain facts have been stated. They are to the effect that scores of poojaris would come under the Village Temples Poosaries Welfare Board and therefore not under the supervision of the Department. For them, exgratia payment has already been given. Those who are getting regular salary are not in need of any assistance. The benefits have already been given to about 12041 persons working in the closed temples for the period from 15.05.2020 to 30.06.2020 in continuation of the earlier decision made.

3.It has been further stated that a further order has been passed in Na.Ka.No.14836/2020/Ai 1 dated 06.08.2020 providing payment of Rs.1,000/- per head to 6624 persons working in the closed temples.

4.Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that the statistics provided may not be correct. There may be other persons who are also in need. Even for these persons, proceedings dated 06.08.2020 does not make any specific reference to 6624 persons. Therefore, appropriate direction will have to be issued in this regard.

5.Learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondents submits that the subject matter itself makes it clear about the persons who are the beneficiaries. Different categories of persons were identified to be given the benefits. In tune with the affidavit filed dated 10.08.2020, a sum of Rs.1,000/- as mentioned in the proceedings dated 06.08.2020 would be extended to 6624 persons working in the closed temples for the period from 01.07.2020 to 31.07.2020.

6. In view of the above, we direct the respondents to see to it that 6624 persons working in the closed temples are given the benefit of Rs.1,000/- as stated in the proceedings dated 06.08.2020 within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

7. If the petitioner has got any grievance that there are scores of persons who are also entitled for the benefit, it is open to him to come forward with a separate writ petition along with sufficient materials in this regard.

8. The writ petitions stand disposed of with the aforesaid liberty. No costs.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

mmi/ssm

To

1. The Principal Secretary/Commissioner,
Hindu Religious and Charitable
Endowments Department,
119, Uthamar Gandhi Salai,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34.

2. The Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai - 9.

W.P.Nos.8768 and 8974 of 2020

AJS (CO)
KKV/09/10/2020

WEB COPY