

ITEM NO.35

COURT NO.6

SECTION XII

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 12021/2023

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 24-05-2023 in WPMD No. 12360/2023 passed by the High Court Of Judicature At Madras At Madurai)

UNION OF INDIA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THEERAN THIRUMURUGAN & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 113428/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

Date : 02-06-2023 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ MITHAL

For Petitioner(s)

Mr. Tuhsar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
Mr. Devashish Barukha, Adv.
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Sabina Shahid, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. This special leave petition is directed against the judgment and order dated 24.05.2023 passed by High Court of Madras, Bench at Madurai. The High Court has, *inter alia*, directed thereby as follows:

“5. Though it is not our desire to stall an important Amendment Bill, we are constrained to put it on hold for some time, for the

Government to explore the possibilities of publishing translated copies of the Amendment Bill as well as Press Communique in all the vernacular languages of the Country.

6. The petitioner has sought for extension of time limit for rendering suggestions as called for the Press Communique. We are of the view that the object behind calling for suggestions would be well met if the Bill is translated and published in the website and suggestions be called in all the vernacular languages and therefore we deem it fit to stay all further happenings pursuant to the Press Communique for the present.

7. Accordingly, there shall be an order of interim stay of the Press Communique dated 03.05.2023 and all further proceedings therefrom till 16.06.2023.”

2. Mr. Mehta, learned Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India submits that the High Court ought not to have interfered in the legislative process. Be that as it may, he also submits that the Lok Sabha Secretariat, as indicated in an affidavit dated 01.06.2023, shall proceed to publish the Tamil version of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 by Monday, i.e., 05.06.2023, so as to enable the respondent-writ petitioner to lodge his objection thereto, if any. Referring to paragraphs 8 and 11 of the affidavit dated 01.06.2023, he seeks stay of operation of the impugned order.

3. Contents of paragraphs 8 and 11 of the affidavit dated 01.06.2023 read as follows:

“8. I submit that the Petitioner herein/Respondent No.2 in the writ petition, *as pro tem* measure, would, without prejudice to its rights and contentions and without it being treated as precedent, publish the Press Communique dated 03.05.2023 in Tamil.

11. I submit that the Petitioner/Respondent No.2 would grant 7 (seven) days to the general public to respond from the date of publication of the Press Communique in Tamil. “

4. We are *prima facie* in agreement with Mr. Mehta that the High Court ought not to have interfered in the process in the absence of the respondent-writ petitioner demonstrating a legal right to have publication of the contents of the Bill in Tamil or in any regional language other than Hindi and English.
5. Issue notice; returnable in the first week of July, 2023.
6. We stay the operation of the direction contained in paragraph 7 of the impugned judgment and order dated 24.05.2023, extracted above.
7. However, in view of the aforesaid statements made in the affidavit dated 01.06.2023 as well as the assurance given by Mr. Mehta that the respondent-writ petitioner shall be granted 7 (seven) days' time to lodge his objection, if any, to the Bill, we expect the petitioner to abide by the same.

(DEEPAK SINGH)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(DIPTI KHURANA)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR