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W.P.No.34310 of 2017

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY, J.

(Order of the Court was made by The Hon'ble Chief Justice)

The matter pertains to the water pollution at Amaravati river.

2. The petition filed in public interest suggests that the wanton permission accorded by the State government to industries near the banks of Amaravati has resulted in industrial effluents being discharged into the flowing water rendering the same not only unfit for human consumption, but exposing nearby groundwater to also turn toxic. There is an underlying suggestion that industries as the eighth respondent are responsible for the degradation of the water quality in the Amaravati, but the eighth respondent submits that it does not discharge any liquid effluent at all and says that the petitioner may have an axe to grind against the eighth respondent.

3. The State is represented, but the State appears to be quite clueless as to what measures ought to be adopted.

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4. At the end of the day, the pollution level in the flowing water has to be reduced to the extent possible. That is the duty of the State and appropriate checks and balances should be introduced by the State to ensure that the dumping of effluents into any flowing waterbody, whether by any industry or by local inhabitants, is completely prohibited if only to preserve the quality of water for downstream users thereof. It is also possible that a polluted river renders the groundwater along the banks toxic or at any rate, unfit for use whether in agricultural or otherwise. In a State which depends primarily on flowing water and the damming of rainwater during the limited period that it gets rains, every endeavour should be made to ensure that the quality of the water is not compromised or adversely affected by the discharge of effluents or sewage or the like.

5. The State should constitute an expert body with persons having impeccable credentials in such regard to suggest appropriate measures, whether to curb the extent of effluents discharged by the industry or to relocate industries which are close to the banks of flowing waterbodies. A set of guidelines need to be formulated with

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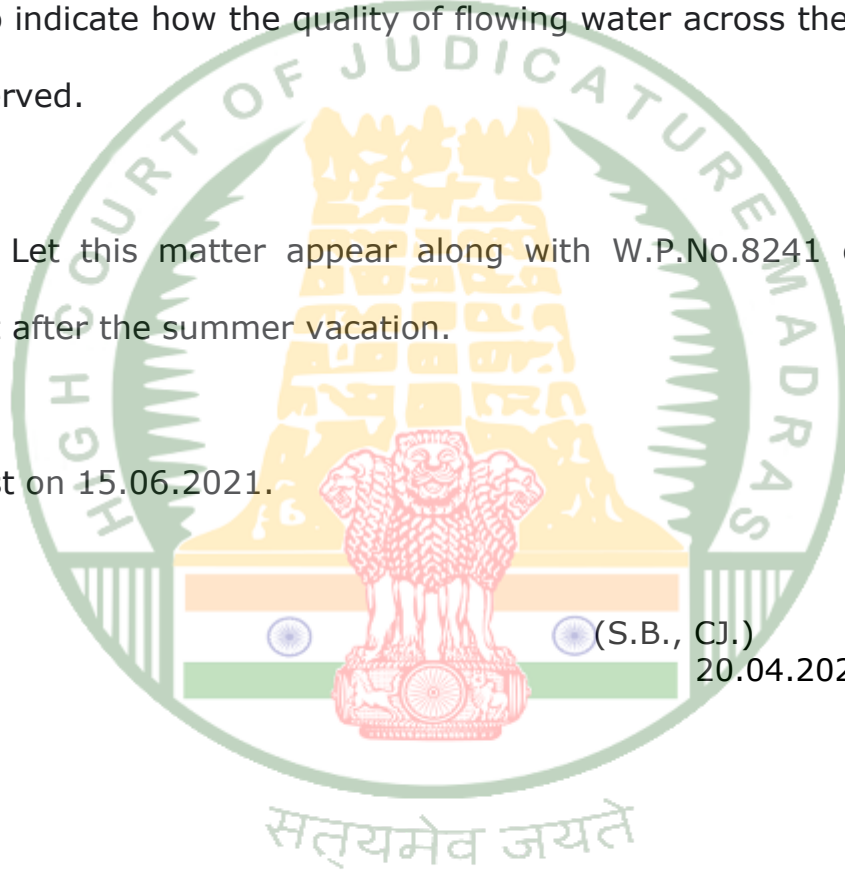
appropriate checks and balances before all flowing water in the State turns poisonous.

6. The State should take the matter seriously and invite the best minds to indicate how the quality of flowing water across the State can be preserved.

7. Let this matter appear along with W.P.No.8241 of 2020 a fortnight after the summer vacation.

List on 15.06.2021.

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(S.B., CJ.)

(S.K.R.,J.)

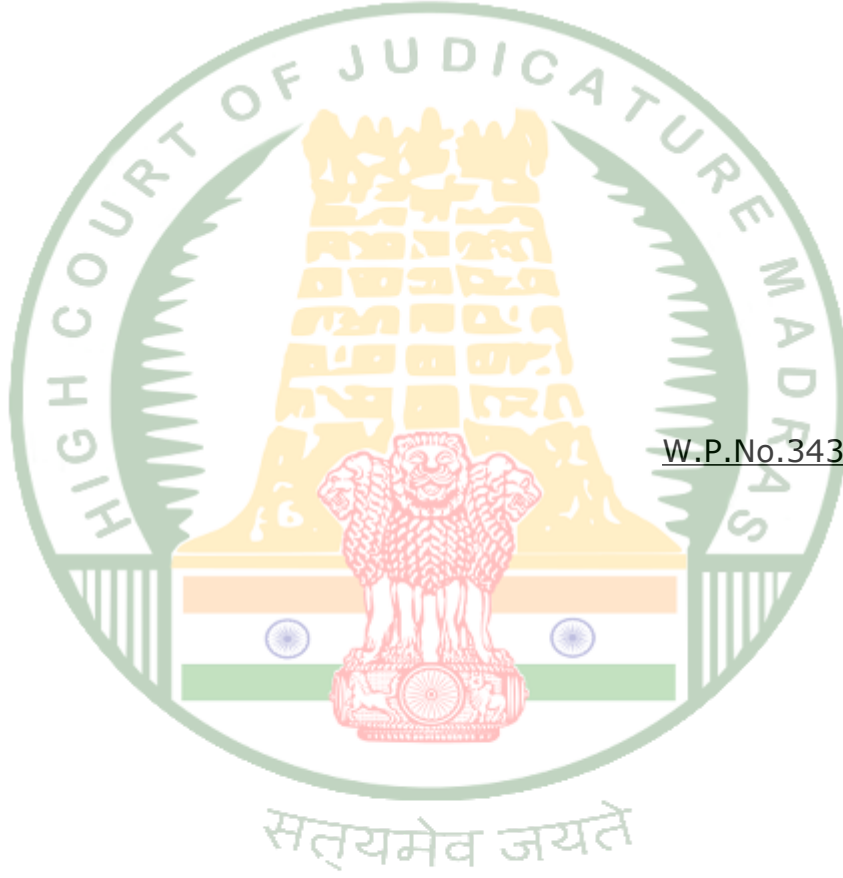
20.04.2021

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