

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 06.07.2021

CORAM :

THE HON'BLE MR.SANJIB BANERJEE, CHIEF JUSTICE

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY

W.P.No.12035 of 2021  
and W.M.P.No.12805 of 2021

Grace Banu

... Petitioner

Vs.

- 1 The Chief Secretary  
Government of Tamil Nadu  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.
- 2 The Government of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary  
Cooperation Food and Consumer Protection Department  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.
- 3 The Government of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary  
Social Welfare & Nutritious Meal Programme Department  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.
- 4 The Government of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary  
Health and Family Department  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009.

5 The Government of Tamil Nadu  
Rep. by its Secretary  
Revenue and Disaster Management Department  
Secretariat, Fort St. George  
Chennai 600 009. ... Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the Respondents

(i) to issue a Corrigendum to the G.O.(Ms) 37 dated 7.5.2021 of the Department of Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protection to extend Covid-19 cash relief Rs.4000/- to transgender persons in Tamil Nadu who do not possess Ration Cards;

(ii) direct that the first installment of Rs.2000/- of cash relief to be paid in the month of May 2021 under the G.O.(Ms) 37 dated 07.05.2021 is also paid to transgender persons who do not have ration cards, either on the basis of their transgender identity cards or any other government ID;

(iii) to conduct awareness programmes for Transgender Persons in the State of Tamil Nadu regarding Covid-19 Vaccination, especially to clarify and assure them on the safety of vaccines for those who are undergoing hormone therapy and other treatment; and

(iv) to conduct special vaccination drives for transgender persons in Tamil Nadu by assisting them to register online and get special vaccination slots in local community health centres.

For Petitioner : Ms.Jayna Kothari, S.C.  
For Mr.C.Prabhu

For Respondents : Mr.R.Shanmughasundaram  
Advocate General  
Assisted by  
Ms.Shabnam Banu  
Government Counsel

**ORDER**

(Made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

A letter dated June 4, 2021 issued by the State to learned Advocate-General indicates the measures taken by the State pursuant to previous orders passed on this petition.

2. G.O.(Ms)No.22, dated June 3, 2021, addresses the issue and the Government has sanctioned the first spell of Covid cash relief to all rice family cardholders including 2956 'third genders' who possess family cards. The Government has also decided to distribute cash relief of Rs.2,000/- per beneficiary to 8,493 'third genders' who do not have ration cards but are registered with the Third Gender Welfare Board.

3. Let this matter appear a week hence. Advocate for the petitioner may obtain copies of the relevant government order from the office of learned Advocate-General.

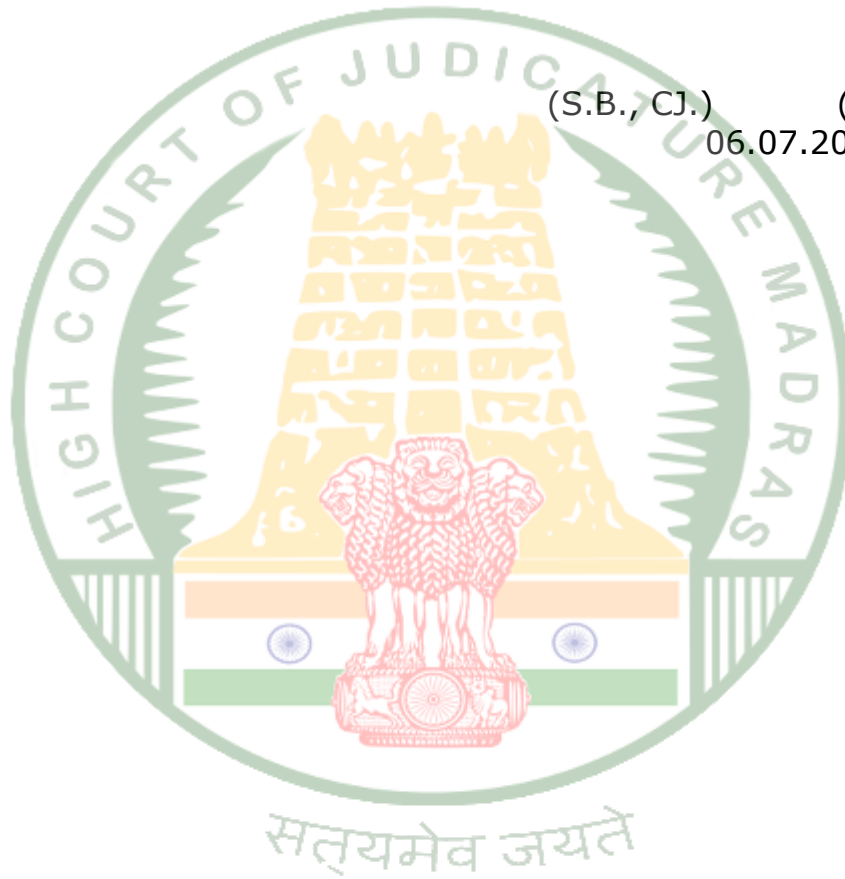
4. A request has been made to ensure that the transgenders and like persons are included in any vaccination drive that may be undertaken by the State. Considering the vulnerability of such persons, it is hoped that the State will consider vaccinating transgenders on a

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priority basis, particularly since the number of transgenders may not be many.

5. List on 14.06.2021.

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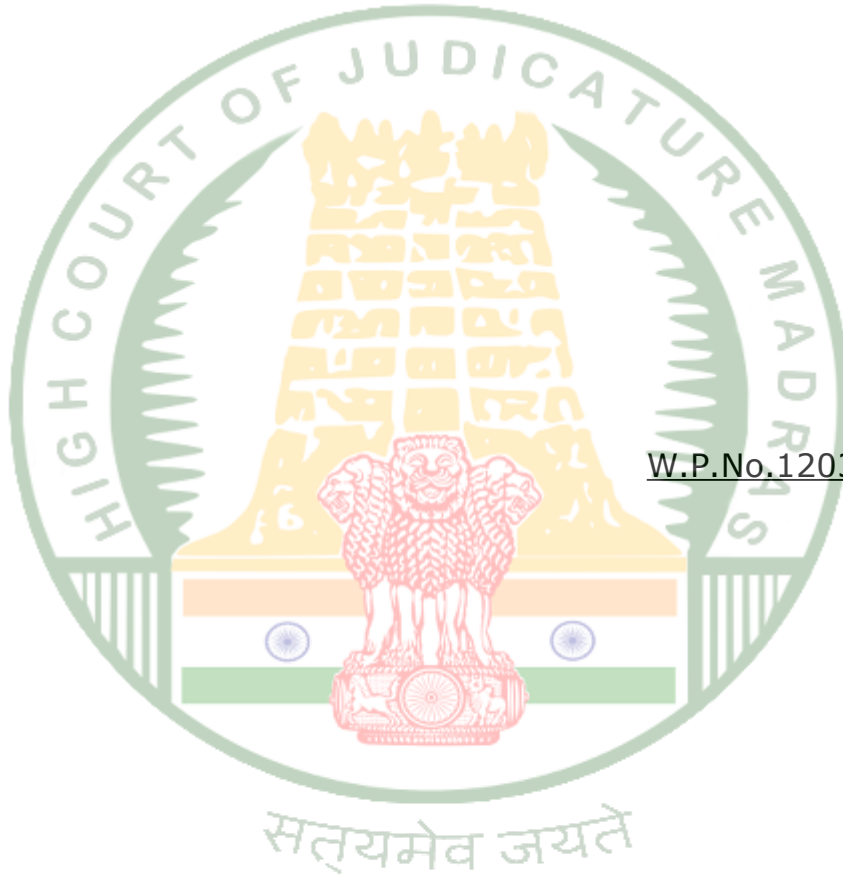


(S.B., CJ.) (S.K.R., J.)  
06.07.2021

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



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