

W.P.Nos.8277, 7511, 7533 and 7722 of 2020

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

(made by Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, J.)

These writ petitions pertain to the provision of relief to the differently abled. Each learned advocate for the respective petitioner has pointed out that in spite of earlier orders of this Court, no concrete measures have been taken to redress the grievances of the differently abled during this pandemic period. Mr.Ramasami points out that only a sum of Rs.1000/- was paid as monetary relief although much larger amounts were promised. It is also submitted that differently abled persons are entitled to preferential treatment at times of crisis in terms of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016.

2. Mr.Muthukumar, learned counsel for the State refers to paragraph 4 of the counter-affidavit filed by the State which specifies that a sum of about Rs.58.33 crore has been credited to differently abled beneficiaries' bank accounts. It is further stated therein that this benefits about 1,94,449 differently abled persons. Further details are specified therein with regard to the provision of both monetary benefit and benefit by way of supply of free ration.

3. Learned counsel for the respective petitioner state that these benefits have not been received by the differently abled, in particular, by the visually impaired whom they represent.

4. The matter is of grave importance and it is hoped that the State takes immediate measures. Learned counsel for the State is directed to file an updated status report providing full particulars of the kind of relief measures that have been extended and the classes of persons who have benefitted thereby. Let the matter appear next week.

5. List on 05.07.2021.

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

सत्यमेव जयते 28.06.2021

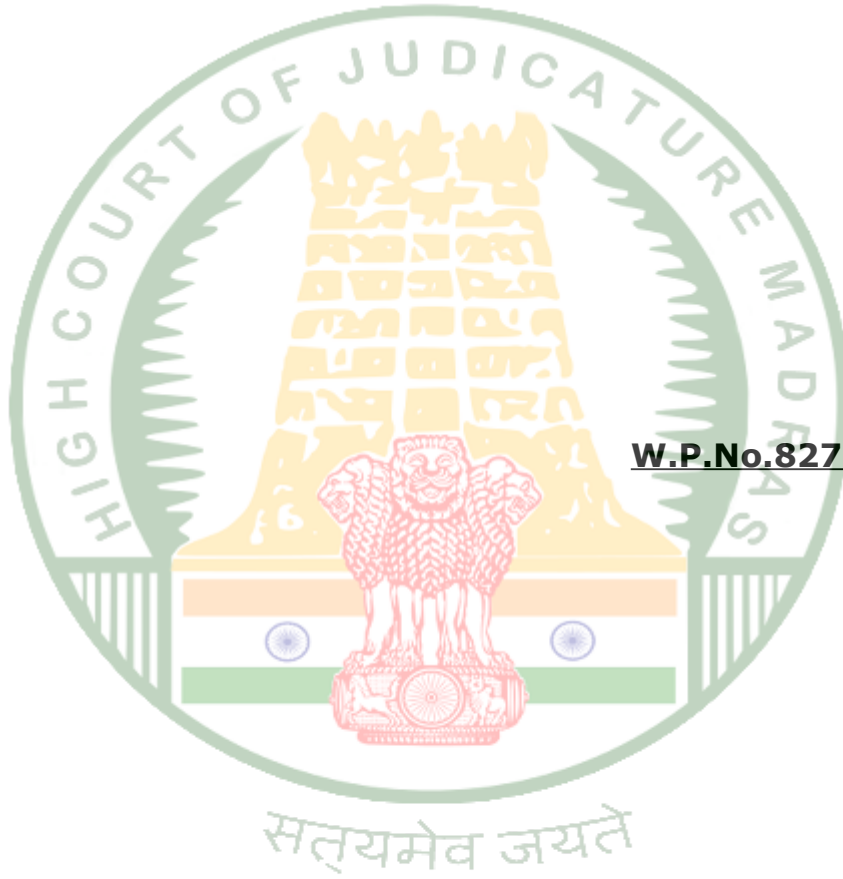
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28.06.2021