

W.P.Nos.3656, 3660, 3662, 3663 of 2021

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

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

The matters pertain to temple elephants and other elephants owned by private individuals, whether such elephants are used by their owners to be exploited for joy rides or the elephants are used as beasts of burden or to transport heavy material.

2. There must be a uniform policy that all elephants, privately owned or temple owned come under the care of the Forest Department and future ownership of elephants by individuals and temples be completely prohibited. The Forest Department should come up with an appropriate plan to ensure the well-being of the elephants that are now privately owned and temple owned and may not be treated so well as was evident from a video which went viral on the social media a couple of days ago. Any kind of mistreatment of elephants and other animals must be dealt with promptly and as mercilessly as such persons deal with the animals. Exploitation of animals for all purposes

should be stopped except for limited government controlled exercises say, horse-riding or camel-riding on the beach, but even these cannot be privately operated since the treatment of the animals cannot be checked or monitored.

3. The matter will appear eight weeks hence for a comprehensive policy and guidelines to be framed by the State within such time. Experts may be consulted, rehabilitation of the elephants which have been lured away from the forest may be taken up and future measures put in place so that the animals are not exploited by humans in the State any further.

4. List on 27.04.2021.

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

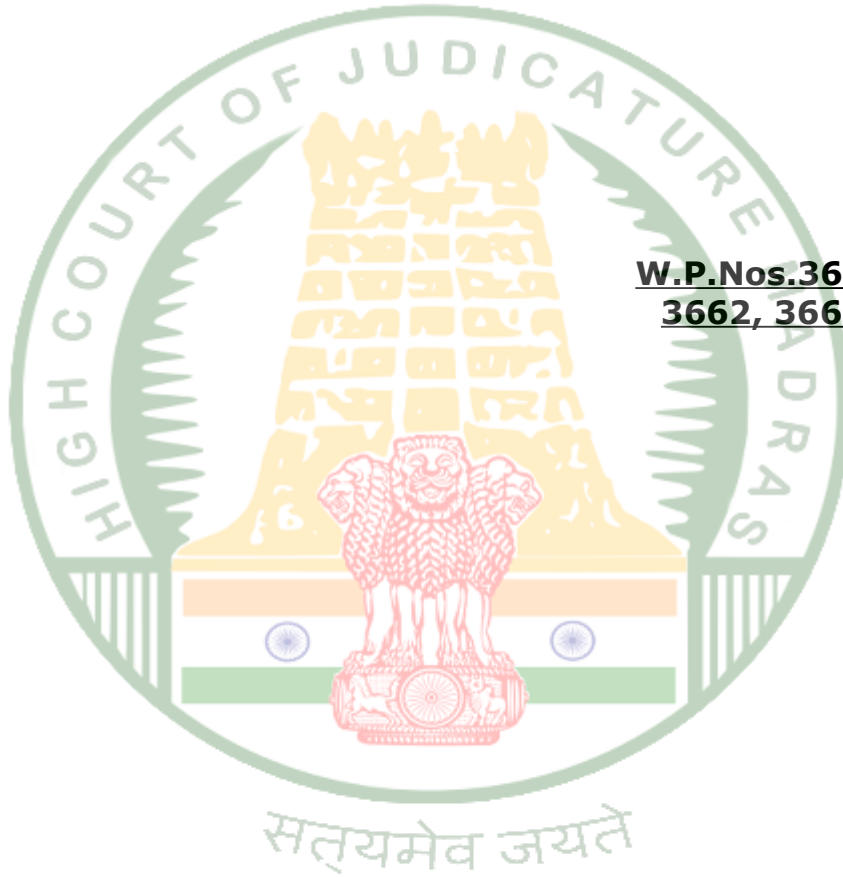
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(tar)



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