

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 30.04.2020

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THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M. SATHYANARAYANAN

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.NIRMAL KUMAR

WP.No.7556 of 2020

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... Petitioner

Versus

- 1)The Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs,
South Block, Raisina Hill,
New Delhi – 110001.
- 2)The Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
3, Circular Road,
Chanakyapuri; New Delhi – 110021.
- 3)The Protector General of Emigrants,
Ministry of External Affairs,
10th Floor, Akbar Bhavan,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021.

4)The Protector of Emigrants,
Ministry of External Affairs,
Rayala Towers, Tower 2,
4th Floor, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600078, Tamil Nadu.

5)H. E. High Commissioner,
Embassy of India,
AthireeAage, Ameeru Ahmed Magu,
Henveiru, Male' – 20125, Maldives.

6)The Director/ Commissioner,
Commissionerate for Rehabilitation &
Welfare of Non Resident Tamils,
Chepauk, Ezhilagam Annex Building,
4th Floor, Chennai – 600005,
Tamil Nadu.

... Respondents

Prayer:- Writ petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents to:

[a]to appoint an exclusive Special Nodal Officer, namely – Special Nodal Officer - COVID 19 at Indian Mission, Malé' for enable the Indian migrants to reach out for any sort of help, including food, shelter and medical facilities.

[b]To set-up a free COVID – 19 testing facility at the Indian Mission at Malé' for the Indian Migrants.

[c]To constitute and send a special medical team to Maldives to provide the adequate medical treatments for the stranded Indian national at Maldives, along with the facility to reach out all the Indian Nationals who are in other Islands apart from Malé' the capital City.

[d]To ensure Food and Hygienic Quarantine Accommodation for Indian Migrants at Maldives.

[e]To airlift the Indian Migrants to India, whoever wanted to get repatriated in order to protect themselves from the pathological consequences due to spread of COVID19, on government expenses.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Muthukumar
For RR1&2 : Mr.K.Srinivasa Murthy, CGSC

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.SATHYANARAYANAN,J..]

(1)The writ petition is styled as a Public Interest Litigation filed by a practicing lawyer belonging to Kanyakumari District and according to him, there are more than 29,000 migrant workers stranded in Maldives and on account of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic virus everywhere in the world, Maldives is not an exception and without any proper or sufficient facilities available, they are languishing in the open Sun and there is every possibility that they may be affected / infected by the

pandemic virus.

(2)The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that in respect of repatriation of the students from Kazakhstan, the Ministry of External Affairs was pleased to appoint a Special Nodal Officer to coordinate with the concerned official of the said Country and similar exercise may also be taken by the Ministry in respect of the stranded Indian Nationals at Maldives and prays for emergent orders.

(3)Notices through Court as well as privately to respondents 1, 2, 4 and 6 returnable on 12.05.2020.

(4)Mr.K.Srinivasa Murthy, learned Senior Panel Counsel for the Central Government accepts notices on behalf of Union of India and he would represent on instructions, that a Special Nodal Officer is also appointed by the Ministry of External Affairs for Maldives to coordinate with the concerned officials of Maldives and seeks time of get instructions.

(5) **Call on 12.05.2020.**

WEB COPY

[M.S.N.,J] [M.N.K., J]
30.04.2020

AP
Internet : Yes

To

1)The Government of India

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New Delhi – 110001.

2)The Foreign Secretary,

Ministry of External Affairs,
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M.SATHYANARAYANAN, J.,

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M.NIRMAL KUMAR, J.,

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