

W.P.No.13530 of 2020

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

ORDER

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

Despite an order of February 02, 2021 for a counter-affidavit to be filed before the matter next appeared on March 19, 2021, no counter-affidavit has been filed till date.

2. Advocate appearing for the State says that he has received a copy of the counter-affidavit yesterday, but it has not yet been filed in Court.

3. Despite observations in repeated orders that directions issued by the Court to file affidavits continue to be flouted frequently, there is no improvement in the situation. Even though the Court has often glossed over the failure on the part of the State to adhere to the directions because of the pandemic and even otherwise, in crucial matters pertaining to illegal quarrying when reports or affidavits are not forthcoming, there is every reason to draw an adverse inference that the officials are mixed up with those involved in the illegal

quarrying activities and actively resist the Court investigating into such matters.

4. While it is appreciated that in view of the surging pandemic, the State's responsibilities in such regard increase significantly, insolence cannot be accepted nor can a system be allowed to continue when directions for filing affidavits hold no meaning at all. Learned Advocate General should represent the State and indicate how the malaise may be arrested.

5. List the matter on 26.04.2021.

(S.B., CJ.) (S.K.R., J.)
22.04.2021

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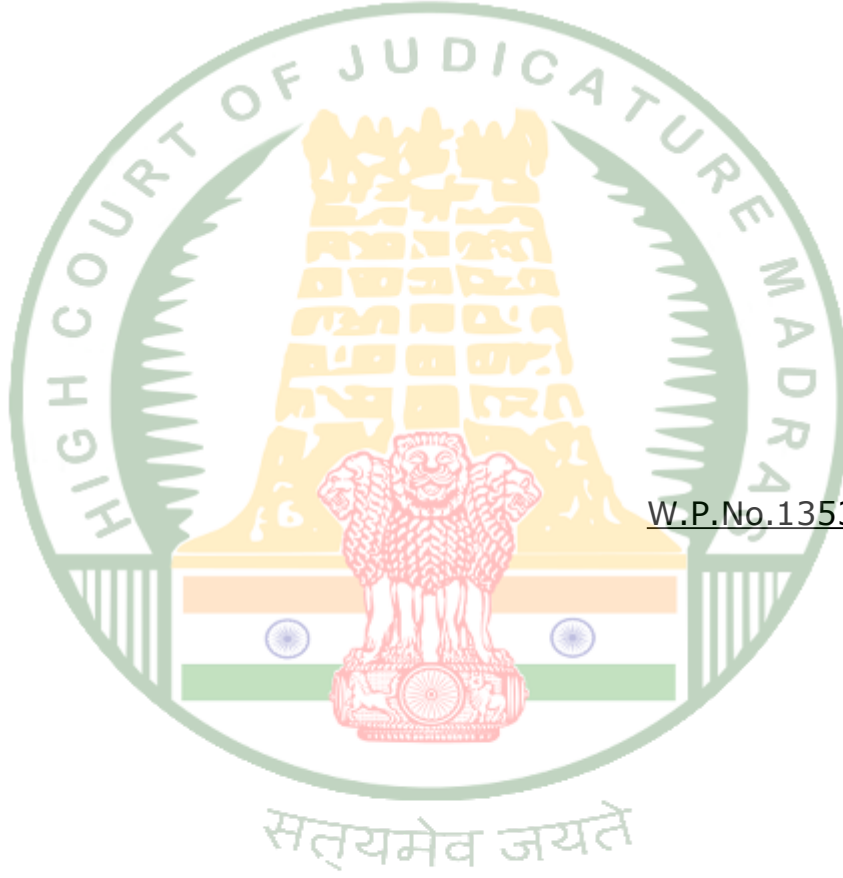
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