

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 27.05.2021

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  
Mrs.A.Srijayanthi, Spl.G.P.

**ORDER**

(Made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

This petition seeks a direction on the State Government to extend the cash benefits to transgenders that the State Government has extended to ration card-holders. It is submitted that most transgenders do not have ration cards and only a fourth or a fifth of the total number of transgenders in this State have ration cards.

2. According to the petitioner, a Board was set up by the State to register all transgenders in the State and issue identity cards. However, such Board stopped functioning even before the pandemic set in, in 2020.

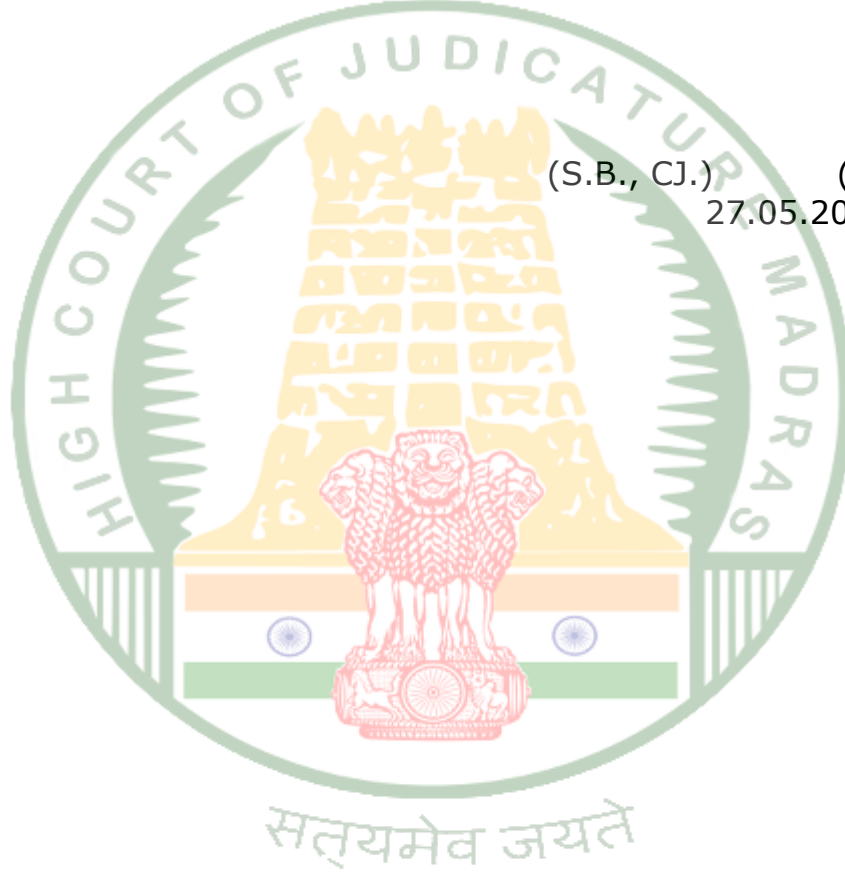
3. It is submitted on behalf of the State that the Government will sympathetically consider the matter pertaining to transgenders and the fact that the eligible persons need to possess ration cards may not stand in the way of their receiving the relief since there are other forms of identity cards that indicate their orientation.

4. The State Government should take a decision in such regard

and come to the aid of the transgenders who require immediate relief.  
Let this matter appear on June 7, 2021, for the State Government to  
indicate if any measures have been taken in such regard.

5. List the matter on 07.06.2021.

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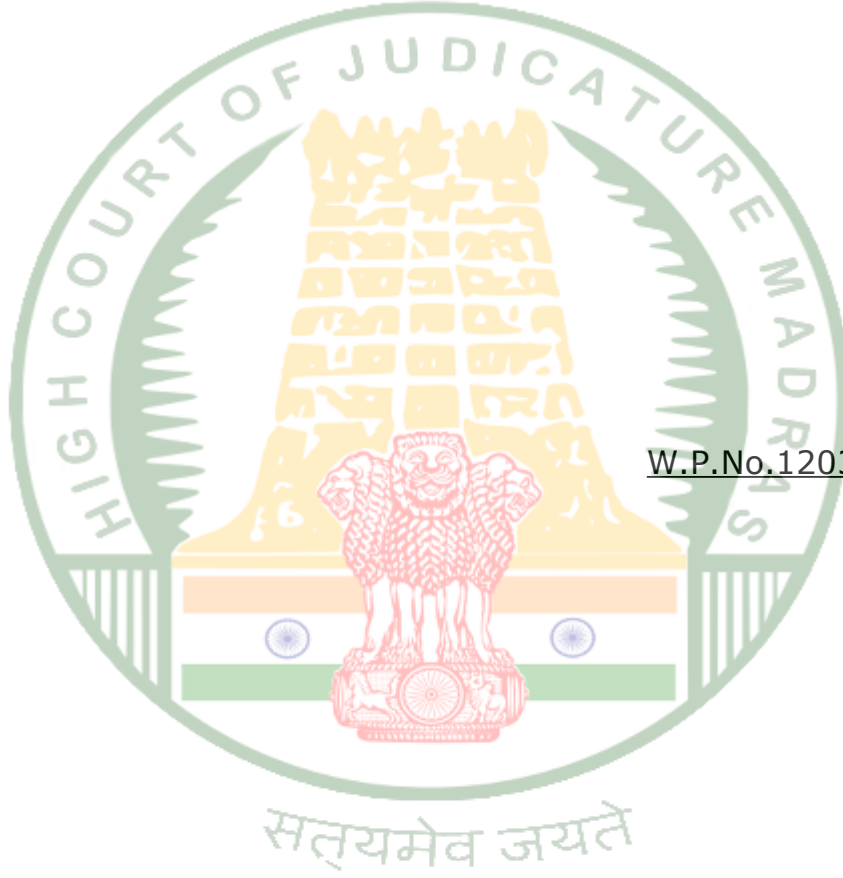


(S.B., C.J.) (S.K.R., J.)  
27.05.2021

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



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