

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS**

**DATED : 30-03-2020**

**CORAM**

**THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE VINEET KOTHARI  
AND  
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SURESH KUMAR**

**W.P.No.7419 of 2020**

Dr.A.E.Chelliah  
Senior Advocate

... Petitioner

**Vs.**

1. The Chairman and Members of the Bar Council of  
Tamizh Naadu and Puducherry  
Represented by its Secretary  
High Court Complex,  
Chennai - 600 104.
2. The State of Tamizh Naadu  
Represented by its Chief Secretary to Govt.  
Fort St. George,  
Chennai - 600 009.

... Respondents

Writ petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking for a writ of mandamus, directing the respondents to release the sum of Rupees Fifty Thousand to an Advocate and Rupees Twenty Five Thousand to the Registered Advocate Clerks in the State of Tamizh Naadu.

**ORDER**

***(Order of the Court was made by Dr.VINEET KOTHARI, J)***

We have taken up this writ petition for hearing through Video Conferencing in view of the lockdown announced by the State Government and the country wide lockdown announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in view of COVID-19 threat perception and as the usual working of the Courts is not taking place under the various circulars issued by High Court and the present Division Bench as per the assigned Roaster by the Hon'ble Chief Justice, has made arrangements for hearing of the present petition through Video Conferencing, sitting at respective residence offices and connected on "ZOOM" platform to connect to the concerned counsels or party-in-person through the technology support of Registry and Technicians.

2. A Senior Advocate, Dr.A.E.Chelliah, Chennai has filed this petition and has urged the Court to take up this case as urgent on priority basis.

3. The prayer made in this petition is that the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and the State may be directed to provide minimum financial amount of Rs.50,000/- to the Advocates and Rs.25,000/- to the Registered Advocate Clerks of the State of Tamil Nadu.

4. The petitioner, Dr.A.E.Chelliah was tried to be contacted on phone but he could not be contacted through Audio or Video Conference. Therefore we have

perused the Affidavit of the petitioner including the letter addressed by him to the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu.

5. Issue Notice. Mr.P.H.Arvind Pandian, learned Additional Advocate General takes notices for the second respondent. Notice to be served on the Secretary, Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Private notice is permitted.

6. In the circumstances of the case, we consider it appropriate only to issue notice to the respondents and ask them to file a Report and Counter, within a period of two weeks from today, as to what relief the Respondents can grant to the Advocates and Registered Advocate Clerks, as prayed in this emergency situation of COVID-19, where on account of complete lockdown and paralyzed professional activities in the Courts, whether any financial help can be extended to these class of people.

7. Such Report can be furnished within a period of two weeks from today.

(V.K. J.) (R.S.K. J.)

30-03-2020

Index : Yes / No  
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