

W.P.No.11850 of 2021

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

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

A further report has been filed by the State through the Health Secretary. It appears that adequate measures have been taken to vaccinate persons with disabilities, particularly persons who are homebound.

2. The State reports that there is also an element of reluctance in some quarters to take the vaccine. The State should try and persuade persons with awareness campaigns and scientific data to indicate the efficacy of the vaccines and the indispensable nature thereof in dealing with the present pandemic. Indeed, vaccinating oneself may not only be to protect oneself but also in the larger interest of public health. When such larger interest of public health comes into play and it is possible that a person who has not taken the vaccine may not reveal any symptoms but still be a silent carrier, it is

doubtful whether the right to refuse to take the vaccine can be exercised in such circumstances.

3. Though the latest status report dated June 29, 2021 indicates appropriate measures having been taken or planned to be taken at rehabilitation homes, mental care centres and the like, there does not appear to be a plan in place for persons with disabilities who are homebound and do not have the ability or resources to travel, particularly in the semi-urban and rural areas. It is hoped that all persons with disabilities, irrespective of status and resources, are taken care of by the State in due course.

4. The matter will now appear four weeks hence since the vaccination drive in the State has only begun in right earnest, though larger supplies of vaccine are awaited.

List on July 28, 2021.

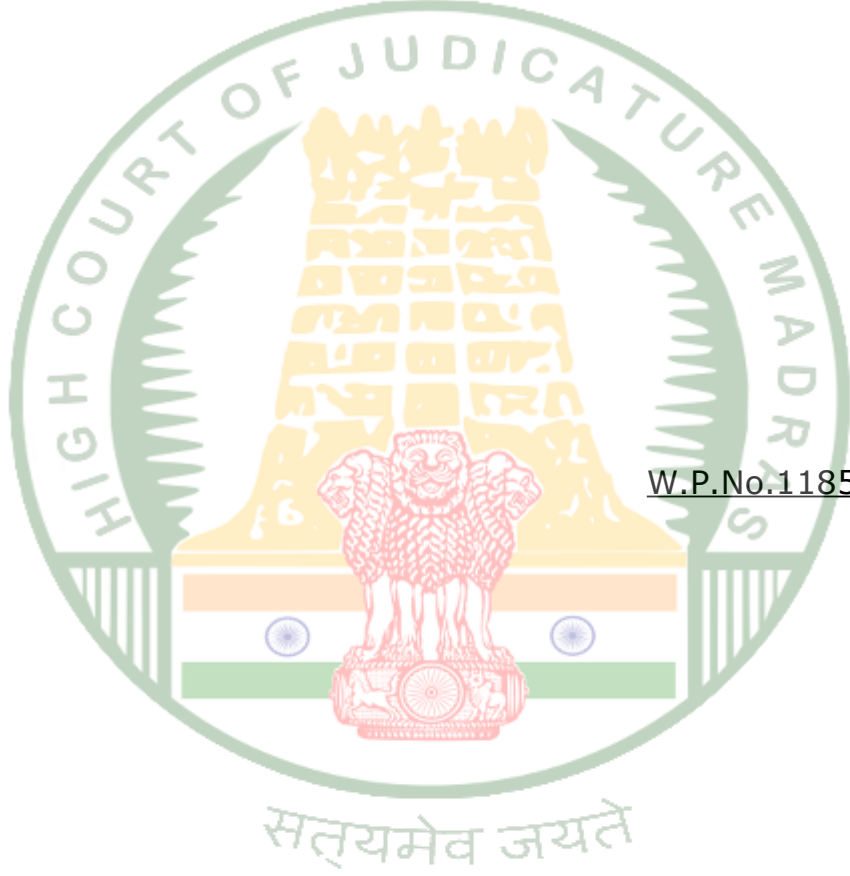
(S.B., CJ.) (S.K.R.,J.)
30.06.2021

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