

W.P.Nos.16064, 16068, 16072, 16075, 16076, 16079 and 16066 of 2021
and W.M.P.Nos.16989, 16993 and 17001 of 2021

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
P.D.AUDIKEVALU, J.

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

Mr.Harsha Raj, learned counsel, takes notice on behalf of the State and several of the official respondents. Mr.R.Bharanidharan, learned counsel, takes notice on behalf of Sri Ranganatha Swamy temple, Trichy. Mr.V.Chandrasekaran, learned Senior Panel Counsel, takes notice for the Animal Welfare Board of India.

2. Issue notice to the other non-appearing respondents. Private notice is also permitted.

3. These writ petitions pertain to the cattle donated by worshippers to temples across the State. The concern of the petitioner, appearing in person in this public interest litigation, is that once a cow stops producing milk or a male calf is born or there is a bull who is useless for breeding purposes, the animals are disposed of in an

unethical manner. The petitioner hints at the animals being indiscriminately sent to the slaughterhouse, which may not be in consonance with the religious beliefs of the worshippers or of the temples.

4. For a start, the State should file a status report as to the heads of cattle with approximate age and sex available at the temples across the State and any Standard Operating Procedure for their maintenance, well-being and the like that may be in place. This report should be filed by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department within four weeks from date upon collating all material.

5. The State and the other respondents should file their counter-affidavits within six weeks from date.

6. The matter will appear five weeks hence for the report to be received and taken note of. It is possible that the petitioner and others interested may be permitted a chance to deal with the report before the matters are taken up finally.

7. List these matters on 08.09.2021.

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(S.B., CJ.) (P.D.A.,J.)
04.08.2021

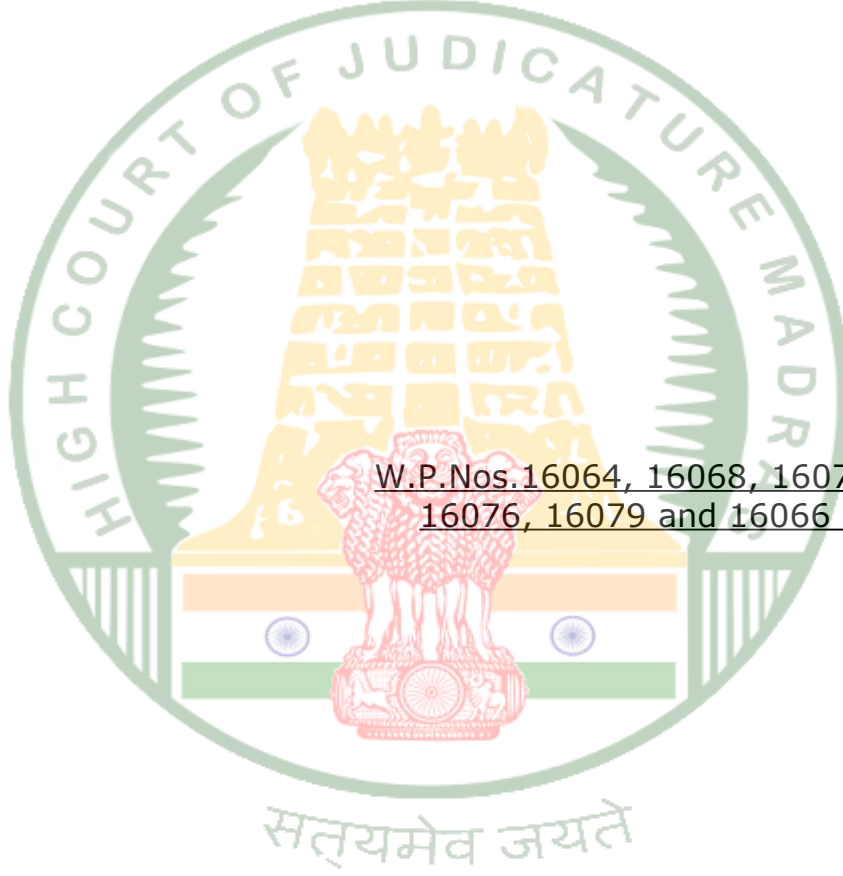


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