

WP No.4571 of 2020

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

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

A report has been filed jointly by the Additional Director General of Police and the Superintendent of Police in the Idol Wing, CID. The report reveals that 41 sets of case diaries went missing from the police stations in various districts where the complaints of theft of idols and artefacts from temples had been lodged. Twenty-five of the missing CDs have been traced and the Idol Wing is pursuing the matters. Sixteen CDs are yet to be traced or recovered.

2. It is no coincidence that 41 CDs pertaining to theft of idols or artefacts from temples go missing. It is shocking that 16 of the CDs have not yet been traced or recovered. It is only in a few stray cases that some of the idols or other stolen property have been recovered, but in the majority of the cases detailed in the report, the idols do not appear to have been recovered. Only in one case there appears to have been recovery of the idols and the conviction of the accused.

3. Since the petitioner seeks some time to deal with the report, let the matter appear four weeks hence.

4. The respondent authorities should be relentless in their pursuit of the stolen idols and artefacts and treat the matters with a greater degree of seriousness than appears now. The missing case diaries must be recovered and the matters pursued. If there is an Idol Wing of the CID, some results need to be shown by such department in recovering the idols or discovering of the persons who may have been responsible for the theft of the idols and artefacts. It appears that the Idol Wing of the CID may not receive the kind of attention that it deserves. The report does not reveal any degree of seriousness on the part of the investigating agency to recover the stolen properties or to bring the culprits to book.

List on 18.11.2021.

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(S.B., C.J.)

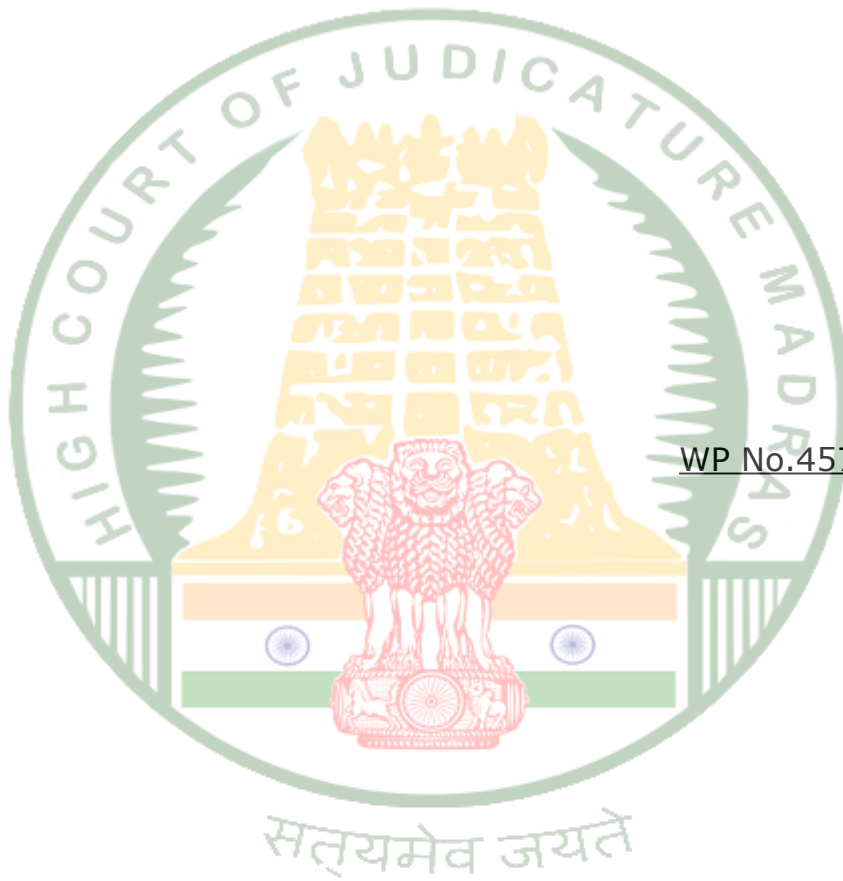
(P.D.A.,J.)

30.09.2021

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