

Smt. Kumari vs State Of Tamil Nadu And Others on 14 January, 1992

Equivalent citations: 1992ACJ283, AIR1992SC2069, JT1992(2)SC16, 1992(II)OLR(SC)493, (1992)102PLR546, 1992(1)SCALE427, (1992)2SCC223, 1992(1)UJ527(SC), AIR 1992 SUPREME COURT 2069, 1992 (2) SCC 223, 1992 AIR SCW 2435, (1992) 2 ORISSA LR 493, (1993) 1 RRR 510(1), 1992 ALL CJ 2 809, (1992) 19 ALL LR 427, (1992) 1 CURLJ(CCR) 533, (1993) 1 LANDLR 105, (1992) 2 PUN LR 546, (1993) 1 RECCRIR 600, (1992) 1 SCJ 453, 1993 BBCJ 26, (1993) 1 ACC 80, (1992) 1 ACJ 283, (1992) 1 TAC 575, 1992 UJ(SC) 1 527, (1992) 2 JT 16 (SC), 1992 SCC (CRI) 386

Author: Kuldeep Singh

Bench: Kuldeep Singh

JUDGMENT

M.H. Kania, CJI and Kuldeep Singh, JJ.

1. Special leave granted.

2. Six years old son of the appellant died as a result of falling in a ten feet deep sewerage tank in the city of Madras. The tank was not covered with a lid and was left open. The appellant filed a petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India before the Madras High Court seeking a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to pay Rs. 50,000/- as compensation to the appellant. The High Court dismissed the writ petition on the ground that in writ jurisdiction it was not possible to determine as to which of the respondents was negligent in leaving the sewerage tank uncovered.

3. In the facts and circumstances of this case we set aside the High Court judgment and direct that respondent No. 1, the State of Tamil Nadu shall pay to the appellant a sum of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) with interest at 12% per annum from January 1, 1990 till the date of payment. The amount shall be paid within six weeks from today. It will be open to the State of Tamil Nadu to take appropriate proceedings to claim the said amount or any part thereof from any of the respondents or any other authority which might be responsible for keeping the sewerage tank open. The claim, if made, will be decided in accordance with law. The appeal is allowed in the above terms. There will be no order as to costs.