



WEB COPY

WP No. 11240 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 13-08-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE DR JUSTICE G. JAYACHANDRAN

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE E.MANOHARAN

WP No. 11240 of 2024

and

WMP.Nos.12332 & 12335 of 2024

T.R.Ramesh
Flat 3b, Nataraj Apartments,
17 D Silva Road,
Mylapore, Chennai- 004.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. State of Tamil Nadu
Rep By Its Secretary,
Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowment
Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai-09
2. The Commissioner
Hindu Religious And Charitable Endowment
Department,
Chennai-34.
3. S.G.P. Exim Pvt., Ltd.,
Rep. by its Director,
30, Conron Smith Rd,
Gopalapuram, Chennai – 600086.

(R3 impleaded vide order dated 16.07.2026
made in WMP.29587 of 2026 in WP.11240 of
2024 by GJJ, SSJ)

..Respondent(s)



Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records relating to G.O.Ms. No.336 Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (R.E. 4-1) Department dated 14.09.2023, issued by the first respondent herein, quash the same and consequently, direct the respondents to restore the properties and funds misappropriated from Hindu Temples by the first and second respondents herein for any of the purpose set out in the said order.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.T.R.Ramesh (P-IN-P)

For Respondent(s): Mr.R.Bharanidharan, SGP for HR & CE

No Appearance for R3

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by Dr.G.Jayachandran J.)

This Writ Petition is filed to quash the G.O.(Ms) No.336, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (R.E. 4-1) Department dated 14.09.2023 issued by the first respondent and to direct the respondents to restore the property and funds misappropriated.

2. The Government Order referred in the Writ Petition is in respect of the proposal to put a structure opposite to Raja Gopuram of Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai using the temple funds. There was a stay granted by



this Court not to proceed with the said proposal. Thereafter, the Government itself has withdrawn the proposal to put up construction as contemplated in G.O.

(Ms) No.336, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments (R.E. 4-1)

Department dated 14.09.2023 by issuing G.O.(Ms) No.58, dated 19.06.2026.

Therefore, the substantial part of the relief sought by the petitioner is already been complied.

3. As far as the the funds is concerned, it is stated that the Joint Commissioner of Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Department has written to the Executive Officer [Buildings], Tiruvannamalai seeking return of Rs.6,39,33,250/- paid in advance to the Public Works Department [in short, PWD] for the proposed construction. The said communication is vide Na.Ka.No.47/2023/A3 dated 25.06.2026. It appears that the money has not been refunded by the PWD till date. Since the proposal to put up construction by PWD is dropped, it is appropriate for the PWD to refund the money in full along with interest if any accrued. Hence, we direct the first respondent/Secretary, Tourism, Culture and Religious Endowments Department and the fifth respondent / District Collector, Tiruvannamalai to oversee the transfer of funds from PWD to the temple as early as possible.



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4. With the above directions, the Writ Petition stands disposed of.

Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petition(s) is/are closed. There shall be no order as to costs.

(G.J.,J.) (E.M.,J.)
13-08-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

DP

To

1. The Secretary,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Tourism, Culture And Religious Endowment
Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-09
2. The Commissioner
Hindu Religious And Charitable Endowment
Department,
Chennai-34.



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**DR.G.JAYACHANDRAN, J.
AND
E.MANOHARAN, J.**

DP

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