



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 30.03.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE P.T.ASHA

WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023 &
WMP(MD)No.6550 of 2023

M/s.Kottaiyenthal Kanmai Ayakkattutharakal Nala Sangam,
Represented by its President,
Gandhi Periyakaruppan,
3/105, Kottaiyenthal, Kadaladi,
Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu - 623 528.

... Petitioner

Vs.

The State Tax Officer,
Mudukulathur.

... Respondent

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of certiorarified mandamus calling for the records of the respondent in proceedings in Reference No.ZA330221215485 dated 17.02.2021 and quash the same and further direct the respondent to revoke the cancellation of the petitioner's Registration under the GST Act bearing GSTIN/UIN: 33AAGAK8072P1Z2.



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

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For Petitioner : Mr.A.Satheesh Murugan
For Respondent : Mr.T.Amjadkhan
Government Advocate

ORDER

The above writ petition is filed to quash the order of the respondent dated 17.02.2021, in and by which, the petitioner's GST Registration was cancelled and for a direction to the respondent to revoke the cancellation of the petitioner's GST Registration.

2. The facts in brief are as follows.

2.1. The petitioner Association was formed by the agriculturists of Kottaiyenthal Village, Ramanathapuram District for the welfare of the agriculturists who are doing cultivation by using the water from Kottaiyenthal Village. They were sometimes given the work of dredging the lake and therefore, they have enrolled under the Tamil Nadu Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (herein after referred as 'the Act') in GSTIN: 33AAGAK8072P1Z2.



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

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2.2. The petitioner Association had not filed GST for over 6 months since the agriculturists did not receive the contract amount from the concerned Departments for the dredging work done by them. Therefore, the GST Registration was cancelled by the respondent with effect from 31.12.2020. Therefore, the petitioner Association left with no other alternative has approached this Court, since the respondent is not willing to restore the GST Registration.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner Association would rely upon the decision of the Principal Bench of this Court in *Tvl.Suguna Cutpiece vs. Appellate Deputy Commissioner (ST) (GST) and others* reported in 2022 (2) TMI 933, wherein, it was held that no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioners out of the Goods and Services Tax regime, as such assessee would still continue to do business and supply goods and services.

4. The learned counsel for the respondent would also admit that the above referred Judgment is being followed in similar matters.



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

WEB COPY

5. The relevant paragraphs of the said Judgment are extracted hereunder:

"216. Since, no useful will be served by not allowing persons like the petitioners to revive their registration and integrate them back into the main stream, I am of the view that the impugned orders are liable to be quashed and with few safeguards.

217. There are adequate safeguards under the GST enactments which can also be pressed against these petitioners even if their registration are revived so that, there is no abuse by these petitioners and there is enough deterrence against default in either paying tax or in complying with the procedures of filing returns.

218. Further, the Government requires tax to meet its expenditure. By not bringing these petitioners within the GST fold, unintended privilege may be conferred on these



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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

petitioners unfairly to not to pay GST should they end supplying goods and/or services without registration. For example, a person renting out an immoveable property will continue to supply such service irrespective of registration or not.

219. Therefore, if such a person is not allowed to revive the registration, the GST will not be paid, unless of course, the recipient is liable to pay tax on reverse charge basis. Otherwise, also there will be no payment of value added tax. The ultimate goal under the GST regime will stand defeated. Therefore, these petitioners deserve a right to come back into the GST fold and carry on their trade and business in a legitimate manner.

220. The provisions of the GST Enactments and the Rules made there under read with various clarifications issued by the Central Government pursuant to the decision of the GST Council and the Notification issued thereunder the respective enactments also make



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

it clear, intention is to only facilitate and not to debar and de-recognised assesses from coming back into the GST fold.

221. While exercising jurisdiction, under Article 226 of the Constitution, the powers of the Court to do justice i.e., what is good for the society, can neither be restricted nor curtailed. This power under Article 226 can be exercised to effectuate the rule of law.

222. Therefore, power of this Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is being exercised cautiously in favour of the petitioners as this power is conceived to serve the ends of law and not to transgress them.

223. In Mafatlal Industries Ltd. Vs. Union of India, (1997) 5 SCC 536, in Paragraph No.77, the Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that "So far as the jurisdiction of the High Court under Article 226 - or for that matter, the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 32 - is concerned, it is obvious that the



WEB COPY



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

provisions of the Act cannot bar and curtail these remedies. It is, however, equally obvious that while exercising the power under Article 226/Article 32, the Court would certainly take note of the legislative intent manifested in the provisions of the Act and would exercise their jurisdiction consistent with the provisions of the enactment. Even while acting in exercise of the said constitutional power, the High Court cannot ignore the law nor can it override it.

224. Notwithstanding the fact that the petitioners have shown utter disregard to the provisions of the Acts and have failed to take advantage of the amnesty scheme given to revive their registration, this Court is inclined to quash the impugned orders with grant consequential reliefs subject to terms.

225. The provisions of the GST enactments cannot be interpreted so as to deny the right to carry on Trade and Commerce to a citizen and subjects. The constitutional guarantee is unconditional and unequivocal



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

and must be enforced regardless of the defect in the scheme of the GST enactments. The right to carry on trade or profession also cannot be curtailed. Only reasonable restriction can be imposed. To deny such rights would militate against their rights under Article 14, read with Article 19 (1)(g) and Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

226. As original or as appellate authority exercising power under the respective enactments, quasi judicial officers were bound by the provisions of the Act and the limitation under it, they have acted in accordance with law. They cannot look beyond the limitations prescribed under provisions of the Act. Therefore, no fault can be attributed to their action.

227. This is a fit case for exercising the power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India in favour of the petitioners by quashing the impugned orders and to grant consequential relief to the petitioners. By doing



WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

so, the Court is effectuating the object under the GST enactment of levying and collecting just tax from every assessee who either supplies goods or service. Legitimate Trade and Commerce by every supplier should be allowed to be carried on subject to payment of tax and statutory compliance. Therefore, the impugned orders deserve to be quashed.

228. These petitioners deserve a chance and therefore should be allowed to revive their registration so that they can proceed to regularize the defaults. The authorities acting under the Act may impose penalty with the gravity of lapses committed by these petitioners by issuing notice. If required, the Central Government and the State Government may also suitably amend the Rules to levy penalty so that it acts as a deterrent on others from adopting casual approach.

229. In the light of the above discussion, these Writ Petitions are allowed subject to the following conditions:~



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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

i. The petitioners are directed to file their returns for the period prior to the cancellation of registration, if such returns have not been already filed, together with tax defaulted which has not been paid prior to cancellation along with interest for such belated payment of tax and fine and fee fixed for belated filing of returns for the defaulted period under the provisions of the Act, within a period of forty five (45) days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, if it has not been already paid.

ii. It is made clear that such payment of Tax, Interest, fine / fee and etc. shall not be allowed to be made or adjusted from and out of any Input Tax Credit which may be lying unutilized or unclaimed in the hands of these petitioners.

iii. If any Input Tax Credit has remained utilized, it shall not be utilised until it is scrutinized and approved by an appropriate or a competent officer of the Department.

iv. Only such approved Input Tax Credit shall be allowed for being utilized thereafter for discharging future tax liability under the



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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

Act and Rule.

v.The petitioners shall also pay GST and file the returns for the period subsequent to the cancellation of the registration by declaring the correct value of supplies and payment of GST shall also be in cash.

vi.If any Input Tax Credit was earned, it shall be allowed to be utilised only after scrutinising and approving by the respondents or any other competent authority.

vii.The respondents may also impose such restrictions / limitation on petitioners as may be warranted to ensure that there is no undue passing of Input Tax Credit pending such exercise and to ensure that there is no violation or an attempt to do bill trading by taking advantage of this order.

viii.On payment of tax, penalty and uploading of returns, the registration shall stand revived forthwith.

ix.The respondents shall take suitable steps by instructing GST Network, New Delhi to make suitable changes in the architecture of the GST Web portal to allow these petitioners



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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

to file their returns and to pay the tax/penalty/fine.

x.The above exercise shall be carried out by the respondents within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."

6. Since the issue involved in this writ petition is similar, the writ petition is disposed of in terms of the guidelines provided in the order in *Tvl.Suguna Cutpiece vs. Appellate Deputy Commissioner (ST) (GST) and others (cited supra)*. No costs. Consequently the connected Miscellaneous petition is closed.

30.03.2023
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NCC:Yes/No
Index:Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order

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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

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To

The State Tax Officer,
Mudukulathur.



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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

P.T.ASHA, J.

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WP(MD)No.6915 of 2023

30.03.2023
(1/2)