



W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 03.12.2024

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CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

and

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE A.D.MARIA CLETE

W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

and

C.M.P.(MD)No.17157 of 2024

1.Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,

Represented by its Chairman,

TNPSC Road,

VOC Nagar, Park Town,

Chennai – 600 003.

2.Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,

Represented by its Secretary,

TNPSC Road,

VOC Nagar,

Park Town,

Chennai – 600 003.

: Appellants

Vs.

1.T.Murugeswari

2.State of Tamil Nadu,

Represented by its Secretary,

Human Resources Management (S) Department,

Secretariat,

Chennai – 9.

: Respondents



W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

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PRAYER: Writ Appeal filed under Clause 15 of Letters Patent, praying to set aside the order in W.P.(MD)No.10519 of 2024, dated 29.04.2024 and allow the present Writ Appeal.

For Appellants : Mr.V.Panneer Selvam
For Respondent No.1 : Mr.T.Aswin Rajasimman
For Respondent No.2 : Mr.S.Shaji Bino
Special Government Pleader

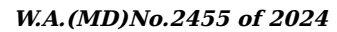
JUDGMENT

[Judgment of the Court was delivered by **M.S.RAMESH, J.**]

Challenge is made to the order of the learned Single Judge dated 29.04.2024 in W.P.(MD)No. 10519 of 2024.

2.In the order passed in the Writ Petition dated 29.04.2024, the respondent / candidate was permitted to participate in the further course of selection by treating her under PSTM category. In the said order of the learned Single Judge, the Government order in G.O.(Ms).No.82, Human Resources Management (S) Department dated 16.08.2021, was read down and the candidates who had completed their 12th examination privately in Tamil medium were recognized to be eligible under PSTM category. After passing of the order in the writ petition, the Coordinate Bench of this Court in the case of **Tamil Nadu Public**

Service Commission Vs. C.Dineshkumar in W.A.(MD)No.2164



“11.The primordial contention of the appellant revolves around the eligibility of the respondent under the PSTM (Persons Studied in Tamil Medium) category, as defined in Notification No. 03/2022, dated 23.02.2022. The appellant-department argues that since the respondent completed his 10th standard privately, he does not meet the criteria for the PSTM category. However, the materials show that the respondent completed his education from 1st to 9th standards in Tamil medium at a regular school, and while he studied privately for the 10th standard, he took the exam in Tamil medium. He subsequently completed his higher secondary education (11th and 12th standards) in Tamil medium at a regular school and also completed his undergraduate degree in Tamil medium. The overall circumstances of his education demonstrate consistent Tamil medium instruction, which aligns with the intent of the PSTM quota. The writ court rightly recognized this broader interpretation of eligibility, focusing on the fact that the respondent wrote his 10th standard examination in Tamil medium.



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W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

12.The appellant department's action of withholding the respondent's candidature is based on the argument that private study for the 10th standard disqualifies him from the PSTM category. However, the Government Order G.O.(Ms) No. 82, dated 16.08.2021, protects candidates who have studied in Tamil medium, even if certain exams were completed privately, provided there is certification from the relevant authority confirming the use of Tamil medium. In this case, the respondent obtained a certificate from the Joint Director, Directorate of Government Examinations, Chennai, dated 09.03.2022, which confirmed that the respondent took his 10th standard exam in Tamil medium, fulfilling the essential requirement for consideration under the PSTM category. The certificate issued by a competent authority is valid and stands as adequate proof of the respondent's eligibility.

13.In the present case, the certificate issued by the Joint Director itself is explanatory which clearly proves that the respondent has passed the higher secondary examination through medium of instruction in tamil. The said certificate has not been disputed by the appellant herein and therefore, the contention of the appellant that the respondent studied in tamil medium privately is unsustainable on the simple ground that the educational authorities



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W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

themselves issued the said certificate. Eventhough the appellant has strongly contended that the respondent has not studied his higher secondary examination in tamil medium, they have not produced any material to prove that the respondent has studied in medium of instruction other than tamil medium. The submissions made by the learned senior counsel for the appellant are unfounded and liable to be rejected, therefore, the writ court's decision to allow the writ petition is correct and requires no interference."

3.In view of the subsequent decision of the Coordinate Bench in **C.Dineshkumar's** case, the finding rendered by learned Single Judge with regard to the entitlement of a private candidate for PSTM quota cannot be found fault with.

4.The learned Standing Counsel for the appellant Commission by placing reliance on the memorandum of the TNPSC in Memorandum No.271/PSD-A2/2022 dated 17.05.2024 submits that as per the directions in the impugned order of the writ petition, the candidature of the first respondent herein was considered by bringing her under PSTM category and still it is found that she is not eligible for the next level of selection process.



W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

WEB COPY

5.In view of the same, the first respondent herein may not be entitled to seek for any favourable orders for selection pursuant to the memorandum of the TNPSC dated 17.05.2024. However, liberty is granted to the respondent herein to challenge the proceedings of the TNPSC in Memorandum No.271/PSD-A2/2022 dated 17.05.2024, in the manner known to law.

6.Accordingly, the Writ Appeal stands disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently the connected Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

[M.S.R.,J.] & [A.D.M.C.,J.]

03.12.2024

Neutral Citation : Yes/No

Index : Yes/No

Internet : Yes/No

MR

Note: Issue a copy of this order by 04.12.2024.



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W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

To

1.The Secretary,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Human Resources Management (S) Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai – 9.

2.The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
TNPSC Road,
VOC Nagar, Park Town,
Chennai – 600 003.

3.The Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission,
TNPSC Road,
VOC Nagar,
Park Town,
Chennai – 600 003.



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W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

M.S.RAMESH, J.
and
A.D.MARIA CLETE, J.

MR

JUDGMENT MADE IN
W.A.(MD)No.2455 of 2024

03.12.2024