IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

Dated : 19.03.2025

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The Hon'ble Mr.Justice Krishnan Ramasamy

W.P.No.9774 of 2025
and
W.M.P.Nos.10961 and 10962 of 2025

M/s.Balaji Textiles (33AASFB5194J1Z0)
Rep. by its Managing Partner Karuppa Gounder
Subramaniyam, 1/124, Karadivavi,
Palladam Tk., Tiruppur Dt.-641658. ... Petitioner

..Vs..

The State Tax Officer,
Palladam 2 Assessment Circle,
Tiruppur III, Tiruppur Division,
10, Pollachi Road, Palladam-641664. ... Respondent

Prayer: This Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Certiorari to call for the impugned order on the file of Respondent vide GSTIN:33AASFB5194J1ZO/2019-2020 dated 05.08.2024, quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Kumar

For Respondent : Mr.T.N.C.Kaushik
Additional Government Pleader (Taxes)

ORDER

The challenge in this writ petition is to the order dated 05.08.2024 passed by the respondent and to quash the same.

2. Mr.T.N.C.Kaushik, learned Additional Government Pleader (Taxes), takes notice on behalf of the respondent.

3. By consent of the parties, the main Writ Petition is taken up for disposal at the time of admission stage itself.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits initially the Showcause notice dated 21.05.2024 as well as personal hearing notice dated 10.07.2024 were issued to the petitioner by uploading the same in the "Additional Notices and Orders" tab in the GST portal instead of "Notices and Orders" tab, without serving it through physical mode. Due to lack of knowledge regarding the usage of GST Portal by the Petitioner's staff, they have not noticed the same and therefore, the petitioner was not aware of the show cause notice as well as personal hearing notice. Hence, the petitioner failed to submit its reply. Subsequently, the respondent passed the impugned assessment order dated 05.08.2024, demanding tax along with interest and

penalty for the Assessment Year 2019-2020 along with the summary order and the same were also uploaded in the GST Portal. The petitioner came to know of the impugned assessment order belatedly.

5. Further, he would submit that impugned assessment order came to be passed without affording an opportunity of personal hearing to the Petitioner and therefore the same is passed in violation of principles of natural justice. Hence he prays to set aside the impugned order.

6. The learned Additional Government Pleader (Taxes) appearing for the Respondent submitted that though the Show Cause Notice and the personal hearing notices were issued to the Petitioner, by uploading the same in the GST portal, the petitioner neither filed its reply nor appeared for personal hearing and hence the assessment order came to be passed.

7. In reply, the learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner is now ready and willing to pay 25% of the disputed tax liability made by the respondents in the event of providing an opportunity to them to file their reply along with the required documents to substantiate their claim,

for which, the learned Additional Government Pleader (Taxes) appearing for the Respondent has no serious objection.

8. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Pleader (Taxes) for the Respondent and also perused the materials available on record.

9. In the present case, since all the notices were uploaded in the GST portal, the petitioner was unaware of the same and hence could not file its reply. Under such circumstances, impugned order came to be passed.

10. It is settled law that violation of principles of natural justice is a failure of due process. If any order is passed against the petitioner with demand, that order has to be passed after giving an opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner otherwise, it will amount to depriving the interest of the petitioner and the same amounts to violation of principles of natural justice.

11. In the case on hand, the impugned order came to be passed without providing an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner. Hence, this Court is of the view that the impugned order passed is in violation of principles of natural

justice and it is just and necessary to provide an opportunity to the petitioner to establish their case on merits. In such view of the matter, this Court is inclined to set aside the impugned assessment order dated 05.08.2024 passed by the Respondent. Accordingly, this Court passes the following order:-

(i) The orders impugned herein are set aside and the matter is remanded to the Respondent for fresh consideration on condition that as volunteered by the Petitioner, they shall pay 25% of disputed tax to the Respondent within a period of ***four weeks*** from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and the setting aside of the impugned order will take effect from the date of payment of the said amount.

(ii) The Petitioner shall file their reply/objection along with the required documents, if any, within a period of two weeks thereafter.

(iii) On filing of such reply/objection by the petitioner, the respondent shall consider the same and issue a 14 days clear notice by fixing the date of personal hearing to the petitioner and thereafter, pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law, after hearing the petitioner, as expeditiously as possible.

Krishnan Ramasamy,J.,

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12. Accordingly, the writ petition is disposed of. There is no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

19.03.2025

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

The State Tax Officer,
Palladam 2 Assessment Circle,
Tiruppur III, Tiruppur Division,
10, Pollachi Road, Palladam-641664.

W.P.No.9774 of 2025