



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 04-06-2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

WP No. 19167 of 2025

and

W.M.P.Nos.21437 & 21438 of 2025

M/s. SSS Contract

Rep by its Proprietor Sirkali Sundarrajan Sankar,

No. 18/10-A,

Thadalan Sannathi Street,

Sirkali, Pincode – 609 110.

Petitioner

Vs

State Tax Officer (ST),

Sirkali Assessment Circle,

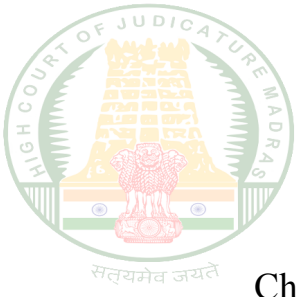
Mayiladuthurai 609 001.

Respondent

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, to call for the records of the assessment proceedings in GSTIN:33DBUPS4811K1Z3 dated 24.02.2025 for the year 2020-21 and to quash this impugned order passed therein as illegal and against the provisions of the Act and direct the respondent to pass fresh orders as per the guidelines issued by the Finance Department Circular No.183/15/-2022- GST dated 27.12.2022 after providing an opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner in this case.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Baktha Siromoni

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



ORDER

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Challenging the order dated 24.02.2025 passed by the respondent relating to the assessment year 2020-21, the petitioner had filed the present Writ Petition.

2. Mr.T.N.C.Kaushik, learned Additional Government Pleader (Taxes), takes notice on behalf of the respondent. By consent of the parties, the main Writ Petition is taken up for disposal at the time of admission stage itself.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that a show cause notice in Form DRC-01 dated 25.11.2024 was issued to the petitioner through GST common portal. Thereafter three reminder notices were issued and personal hearing opportunity was also granted to the petitioner. However, the petitioner had neither filed its reply nor availed the opportunity of personal hearing. Hence, the impugned order came to be passed by the respondent, confirming the proposals contained in the show cause notice.



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4. It was further submitted that the petitioner is ready and willing to pay 25% of the disputed tax and that he may be granted one final opportunity before the adjudicating authority to put forth their objections to the proposal, to which the learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for the respondent does not have any serious objection.

5. Considering the above submissions made by the learned counsel on either side and upon perusal of the materials, it is evident that the impugned show cause notice was uploaded on the GST Portal Tab. According to the petitioner, the petitioner was not aware of the issuance of the show cause notice issued through the GST Portal and the original of the said show cause notice was not furnished to them. In such circumstances, this Court is of the view that the impugned assessment order came to be passed without affording any opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner, confirming the proposals contained in the show cause notice.

6. No doubt sending notice by uploading in portal is a sufficient service,



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but, the Officer who is sending the repeated reminders, inspite of the fact that no response from the petitioner to the show cause notices etc., the Officer should have applied his/her mind and explored the possibility of sending notices by way of other modes prescribed in Section 169 of the GST Act, which are also the valid mode of service under the Act, otherwise it will not be an effective service, rather, it would only fulfilling the empty formalities. Merely passing an *ex parte* order by fulfilling the empty formalities will not serve any useful purpose and the same will only pave way for multiplicity of litigations, not only wasting the time of the Officer concerned, but also the precious time of the Appellate Authority/Tribunal and this Court as well. Thus, when there is no response from the tax payer to the notice sent through a particular mode, the Officer who is issuing notices should strictly explore the possibilities of sending notices through some other mode as prescribed in Section 169(1) of the Act, preferably by way of RPAD, which would ultimately achieve the object of the GST Act.

7. Therefore, this Court finds that there is a lack of opportunities being



provided to serve the notices/orders etc., effectively to the petitioner. Hence, this

Court is inclined to set-aside the impugned order with terms, by issuing the

following directions:-

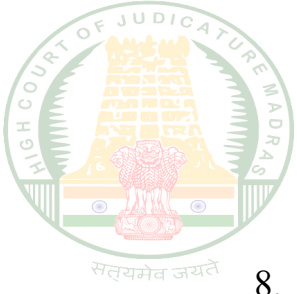
i) The impugned order dated 24.02.2025 passed by the respondent is set aside.

ii) Consequently, the matter is remanded to the respondent for fresh consideration.

iii) The petitioner is directed to deposit 25% of the disputed tax, which the petitioner had voluntarily come forward to make such payment, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

iv) Thereafter, the petitioner is directed to file a reply along with supportive documents, if any, within a period of two weeks.

v) Thereupon, the respondent is directed to consider the reply and shall issue a clear 14 days notice affording an opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner and shall decide the matter in accordance with law.



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8. With the above directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs.

Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

04-06-2025

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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To

State Tax Officer (ST),
Sirkali Assessment Circle,
Mayiladuthurai - 609 001.



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KRISHNAN RAMASAMY J.

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