



WEB COPY

WP No. 20485 of 2025



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 10-06-2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

WP No. 20485 of 2025

AND

WMP NO. 23128 OF 2025, WMP NO. 23130 OF 2025

Tvl.Bld Design Studio,
Rep by its Proprietorship, Mr. Ramesh Thamilmanni,
21/4, 77/4, 31st Cross Street, Besant Nagar,
Kamaraj Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600090.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

The State Tax Officer,
Kottupuram Assessment Circle,
Integrated Commercial Taxes and
Registration Department,
Nandanam, Chennai-35.

Respondent(s)

PRAYER:-Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for an issuance of Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records of Impugned Assessment Order dated 25.02.2025 issued by the respondent in GSTIN. No. 33AANFB3396F1ZE/2020-2021 and its consequent directions and to quash the same.



WEB COPY

WP No. 20485 of 2025



For Petitioner(s): Mr.A.Abdul Rahman

For Respondent(s): Mr.C.Harsha Raj,
Special Government Pleader (t)

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed by the petitioner challenging the impugned assessment order dated 25.02.2025, passed by the respondent relating to the Assessment Year 2020-2021 and to quash the same.

2.Mr.C.Harsha Raj, learned Special 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 admission stage itself.

4.Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that, in the present case, the petitioner have not received any physical copy of the show cause notice and also personal hearing notice. The show cause notice dated



25.11.2024 and three reminders were uploaded in the GST Portal tab in “View

Additional Notice Column” and the petitioner had no occasion to open the GST

Portal. Even the impugned order dated 25.02.2025 was also uploaded in the

GST Portal, which is violation of principle of natural justice. He would further

submit that the petitioner is ready and willing to pay 10% of the disputed tax

demand in respect of the impugned assessment period and prayed to set aside

the impugned order directing the respondent to permit the petitioner to file their

reply and provide an opportunity of personal hearing so that the petitioner

would be able to substantiate their case.

5.Learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondent

would submit that as per the voluntary submissions made by the learned counsel

for the petitioner, subject to the deposit of 10% of the disputed tax demand by

the petitioner in respect of the impugned assessment period, if the Court feels it

appropriate and it is a fit case for re-consideration, this Court may consider and

pass orders.



WEB COPY

6. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner as well as the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondent and perused the materials available on record.

7. Considering the above submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioner as well as the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the respondent 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.

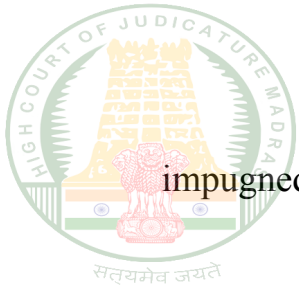
8. No doubt sending notice by uploading in portal is a sufficient service, but, the Officer who is sending the repeated reminders, in spite of the fact that no



WEB COPY

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.

9. Therefore, this Court finds that there is a lack of opportunities being provided to the petitioner. Hence, this Court is inclined to set-aside the



WEB COPY

WP No. 20485 of 2025



impugned order with terms, by issuing the following directions:-

(i) The order impugned herein is set aside on condition that the petitioner deposits 10% of the disputed tax amount in respect of the impugned assessment period, as agreed by the petitioner, within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(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.

(iv) Upon production of proof with regard to the payment of 10% of the disputed tax made by the petitioner, the respondent-Department is directed to issue appropriate



direction on the petitioner's banker towards de-freezure of the petitioner's bank account forthwith.

WEB COPY

10. With the above directions, the writ petition is disposed of. There is no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

10-06-2025

rst

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

The State Tax Officer,
Kottupuram Assessment Circle,
Integrated Commercial Taxes and
Registration Department,
Nandanam, Chennai-35.



WEB COPY

WP No. 20485 of 2025



KRISHNAN RAMASAMY J.

rst

WP No. 20485 of 2025

AND

WMP NO. 23128 OF 2025,

WMP NO. 23130 OF 2025

10-06-2025