



WEB COPY

WP No. 23458 of 2025



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

**DATED: 30-06-2025**

CORAM

**THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY**

**WP No. 23458 of 2025  
and W.M.P.Nos.26323 & 26324 of 2025**

Tvi.Trineithra Traders,  
Represented by its Proprietor Ms.Kavitha,  
SF. No.199/2A, Ramasamy Pillai Street /  
Backside of Rajammal Kalyana Mahal,  
Shanmugar Nagar /Annathanapatty,  
Salem, Tamil Nadu.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

The State Tax Officer,  
Gugai Circle Salem,  
Room No. 125, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Integrated Commercial Tax Building,  
No. 17 Pitchards Road, Hasthampatti,  
Salem 636 007.

Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s): Mr.G.Natarajan

For Respondent(s): Mr.V.Prashanth Kiran  
Government Advocate (taxes)



## **ORDER**

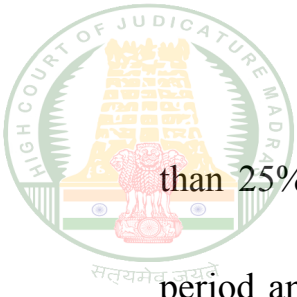
WEB COPY

This writ petition has been filed by the petitioner challenging the impugned assessment order dated 28.11.2024, passed by the respondent .

2.Mr.V.Prashanth Kiran, learned Government Advocate (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 28.06.2024 was uploaded in the GST Portal tab and the petitioner had no occasion to open the GST Portal. Even the impugned order dated 28.11.2024 was also uploaded in the GST Portal, which is violation of principle of natural justice. He would further submit that the respondent had already recovered more



than 25% 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 Government Advocate appearing for the respondent would

submit that he has to verify whether the respondent had recovered 25% of the

disputed tax demand from the petitioner in respect of the impugned assessment

period and he would further submit that if the Court feels it appropriate and it is

a fit case for re-consideration, this Court may consider and pass orders.

6.Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner as well as the

learned Government Advocate 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 Government Advocate appearing for the



WEB COPY

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, 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.

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

(i) The order impugned herein is set aside and remanded back to the respondent for fresh consideration subject to the verification whether 25% of the disputed tax amount has been recovered by the respondent in respect of the impugned assessment period, as stated by the petitioner.



WEB COPY

WP No. 23458 of 2025



(ii) The petitioner shall file their reply/objection along with the required documents, if any, within a period of two weeks from the date the portal is made ready to the petitioner to file their reply.

(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.

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.

**30-06-2025**

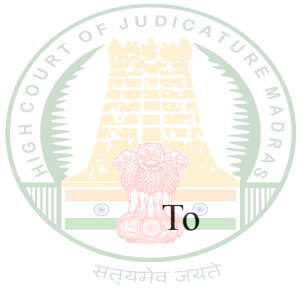
rst

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No



WP No. 23458 of 2025



To

The State Tax Officer,  
Gugai Circle Salem,  
Room No. 125 1st Floor,  
Integrated Commercial Tax Building,  
No. 17 Pitchards Road, Hasthampatti,  
Salem 636 007.



WEB COPY

WP No. 23458 of 2025



**KRISHNAN RAMASAMY J.**

rst

WP No. 23458 of 2025  
and W.M.P.Nos.26323 &  
26324 of 2025

30-06-2025