



WEB COPY

WP No. 26556 of 2025



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 23-07-2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

WP No. 26556 of 2025

AND

WMP NO. 29866 OF 2025, WMP NO. 29864 OF 2025

M/s UNIQUE HARDWARE MART,
Represented by its Partner,
Mr. Shabir Abbas Bhai Hararwala
Old No.76, New No.84, Raj Manzil,
Armenian Street, Chennai-600 001.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

The Assistant Commissioner (ST),
Harbour Assessment Circle,
Integrated Commercial Building ,
Room No. 326, 3rd Floor,
Elephantgate Bridge Road, Chennai.

Respondent(s)

PRAYER:- Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India,
praying for an issuance of Writ of Certiorari, calling for the records pertaining
to the Impugned order dated 09.10.2024 passed by the Respondent herein



against the petitioners firm GSTIN33AAAFU1186B1Z0 for the Assessment Year 2023-2024 and quash the same as illegal, arbitrary and against the principles of natural justice.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.K.M.Malarmannan

For Respondent(s): Mrs.K.Vasanthamala,
Government Advocate (t)

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed by the petitioner challenging the impugned assessment order dated 09.10.2024, passed by the respondent relating to the Assessment Year 2023-2024 and to quash the same.

2.Mrs.K.Vasanthamala, 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.



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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 09.07.2024 and three reminders were uploaded in the GST Portal tab and the petitioner had no occasion to open the GST Portal. Even the impugned order dated 09.10.2024 was also uploaded in the GST Portal, which is violation of principle of natural justice. He would further submit that the respondent had recovered the entire disputed tax demand from the petitioner 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 if the Court feels it appropriate and it is a fit case for re-consideration, this Court may consider and pass orders.



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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 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.

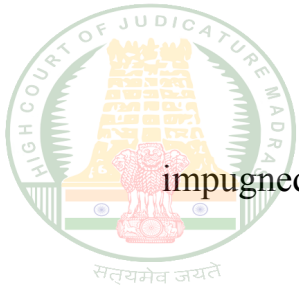
8. No doubt sending notice by uploading in portal is a sufficient service, but, the Officer who is sending the repeated reminders, in spite of the fact that no



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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



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impugned order, by issuing the following directions:-

(i) The order impugned herein is set aside and the matter is remanded back to the respondent for fresh consideration.

(ii) The petitioner shall file their reply/objection along with the required documents, if any, within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(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) Considering the fact that the impugned order itself has been set aside, this Court is of the opinion that, if any attachment has been made on the Bank account of the petitioner, the same cannot survive any longer and hence, it is lifted. The respondent is directed to instruct the Bank to



unfreeze the Bank account of the petitioner immediately upon
the production of a copy of this order.

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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.

23-07-2025

rst

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

The Assistant Commissioner (ST),
Harbour Assessment Circle,
Integrated Commercial Building,
Room No. 326 3rd Floor,
Elephant gate Bridge Road, Chennai.



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KRISHNAN RAMASAMY J.

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