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W.P.No.30629 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 18.08.2025

Coram

The Honourable **Mr.Justice Krishnan Ramasamy**

W.P.No.30629 of 2025
and
W.M.P.Nos.34328 & 34330 of 2025

Tvl. TRUE LINK
Rep by its Proprietor Mrs. Prisca
5/B, Maduvinkarai,
2ND Street Alandur, Chennai 600 016.

...Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Deputy State Tax Officer- I
Alandur Assessment Circle,
Room No. 352, III Floor,
Integrated Building for Commercial taxes and Registration
Departments (south Tower) ,
Nandanam,
Chennai - 600 035

2.The Branch Manager
HDFC Bank, Door No 5 and 6,
Venkatakrisshna Road, Mandaveli
Chennai - 28



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

...Respondents

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Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Certiorari to call for the records in the files of the 1st respondent in GSTIN: 33CPJPP4335RIZ8 /2020-21 dated 18.02.2025 and quash the same is illegal, invalid without Jurisdiction and violated the principles of natural Justice.

For Petitioner : Mr.D.Vijayakumar

For Respondents : Mr.V.Prashanth Kiran (R1)
Government Advocate (Taxes)

ORDER

Mr.V.Prashanth Kiran, learned Government Advocate (Taxes), takes notice on behalf of the 1st respondent. With consent, the main Writ Petition is taken up for final disposal at the stage of admission itself.

2. The challenge in this Writ Petition is to the order dated 18.02.2025 passed by the 1st respondent for the AY 2020-21 and to quash the same.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the 1st



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

respondent has issued a show cause notice on 25.11.2024 was issued to the petitioner by uploading the same in the GST portal without serving physical copy of the same to the petitioner. Therefore, the petitioner was not aware of those notices and file reply to those notices. Since the petitioner failed to file reply to the show cause notice, the 1st respondent has confirmed the proposals contained in the show cause notice and passed the present impugned order. Ther petitioner came to know of the impugned order only after receipt of the bank attachment notice. Therefore, the learned counsel would submit that the impugned order suffers from violation of principles of natural justice and is liable to be aside, as the petitioner has not been heard before passing the impugned order.

3.1. It is also submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner is ready and willing to deposit 25% of the disputed tax, in the event, this Court is inclined to set aside the impugned order and remand the matter back to the Authority for fresh consideration. He would further submit that there is bank attachment and the same may be lifted, subject to the payment of 25% of the disputed tax. Hence, he prayed for appropriate



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

directions.

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4. The learned Government Advocate (Taxes) for the respondents fairly submitted that since the petitioner has voluntarily come forward to deposit 25% of the disputed tax, the prayer sought for by the petitioner may be considered.

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.

6. 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



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

WEB COURT

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. 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



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

show cause notice. Hence, this Court is inclined to set-aside the impugned

order with terms, by issuing the following directions:-

i) The impugned order passed by the 1st respondent dated 18.02.2025 is set aside.

ii) Consequently, the matter is remanded to the 1st respondent for fresh consideration.

iii) The petitioner is granted liberty to deposit 25% of the disputed tax, which the petitioner themselves 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 within a period of two weeks.

v) Thereupon, the 1st respondent is directed to consider the reply



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

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.

vi) Upon production of proof with regard to the payment of 25% of the disputed tax made by the petitioner, the second respondent-Bank is directed to de-freeze the petitioner's bank account forthwith.

8. With the above observations & directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

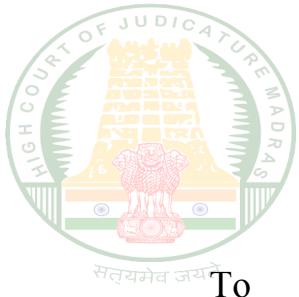
18.08.2025

arr

Index : yes/no

Neutral Citation : yes/no

Note: Issue order copy on 20.08.2025.



W.P.No.30629 of 2025

To
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W.P.No.30629 of 2025

Krishnan Ramasamy,J.,

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