



W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 19.11.2025

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE K.KUMARESH BABU

W.P.(MD)No.26229 of 2025

and

W.M.P(MD)No.20431 of 2025

R.Poovendran

...Petitioner

Vs

1.The Principal Accountant General
of Tamil Nadu (A and E),
Office of the Principal Accountant General (A and E),
361, Anna Salai,
Chennai - 600 018.

2.The Chief Water Analyst,
Regional Public Health Water Analysis Laboratory,
Tirunelveli – 627 011.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records relating to the impugned order passed by the second respondent in his proceedings in Na.Ka. No.613/A1/2024 dated 27.02.2025 and the consequential impugned order passed by the second respondent in his proceedings in Na.Ka.No.613/A1/2024 dated 27.02.2025 in respect of the alleged re-fixation and recovery of excess payment due to wrongful fixation of pay increment for the period from



W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

01.08.2010 to 28.02.2025 amounting to Rs.3,46,872/- and quash the same as illegal, arbitrary and in violation of the principles of natural justice and consequently to direct the second respondent to refund that sum of Rs.3,46,872/- with interest at the rate of 12% per annum to the petitioner within a time frame fixed by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Pradeep
For R1 : M/s.S.Mahalakshmi
Standing Counsel
For R2 : Mr.F.Deepak
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed for a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for the records relating to the impugned order passed by the second respondent in his proceedings in Na.Ka. No.613/A1/2024 dated 27.02.2025 and the consequential impugned order passed by the second respondent in his proceedings in Na.Ka.No.613/A1/2024 dated 27.02.2025 in respect of the alleged re-fixation and recovery of excess payment due to wrongful fixation of pay increment for the period from 01.08.2010 to 28.02.2025 amounting to Rs.3,46,872/- and quash the same as illegal, arbitrary and in violation of the principles of natural



W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

justice and consequently to direct the second respondent to refund that sum of Rs.3,46,872/- with interest at the rate of 12% per annum to the petitioner within a time frame fixed by this Court.

2. The order of recovery has been made based on the re-fixation of pay after the retirement of the petitioner from service. Applying the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***State of Punjab and others Vs.Rafiq Masih (White Washer)***, no recovery can be effected after superannuation of the employee. Hence, the recovery made by the respondents from the petitioner is contrary to the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court as stated supra.

3. In view of the same, the writ petition stands disposed of with a direction to the respondents to refund the amount recovered from the petitioner. However, the respondents are at liberty to refix the petitioner's salary after affording him an opportunity of hearing. Such exercise shall be completed by the respondents within a period of twelve weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. This order shall not preclude the respondents from disbursing the pensionary benefits to the petitioner.



W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

19.11.2025

NCC:yes/no
Index:yes/no
Internet:yes/no
Sn

To:

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of Tamil Nadu (A and E),
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- 2.The Chief Water Analyst,
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W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

K.KUMARESH BABU, J.

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W.P.(MD).No.26229 of 2025

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