



W.P.(MD)No.34481 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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DATED: 28.11.2025

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MS.JUSTICE P.T.ASHA

W.P.(MD).No.34481 of 2025

and

W.M.P(MD)Nos.27274 and 27275 of 2025

Murugesan

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Commissioner,
Tirunelveli Corporation,
Tirunelveli 627 001,
Tirunelveli District.

2. The Assistant Commissioner,
Melapalayam Zone,
Tirunelveli Corporation,
Tirunelveli 627001,
Tirunelveli District.

... 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 Demand Notice dated 29.07.2025 issued by the 2nd respondent and quash the same and consequently, direct the respondents to refix the rent at the rate of Rs.140/- per sq.ft. per month as directed by the Honble Supreme Court of India in respect of other shopkeepers in the order dated 13.12.2023 passed in SLP(C) No.



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27248-27249 of 2023, to be paid by the petitioner, within a time limit to be fixed by this Honble Court and pass such further or other orders as this Honble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Srikanth

For Respondents : Mr.A.Sivanu Pandian
Standing Counsel

ORDER

The above writ petition has been filed for the following relief:-

“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 Demand Notice dated 29.07.2025 issued by the 2nd respondent and quash the same and consequently, direct the respondents to refix the rent at the rate of Rs.140/- per sq.ft. per month as directed by the Honble Supreme Court of India in respect of other shopkeepers in the order dated 13.12.2023 passed in SLP(C) No. 27248-27249 of 2023, to be paid by the petitioner, within a time limit to be fixed by this Honble Court and pass such further or other orders as this Honble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.”



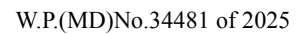
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2. Mr.A.Sivanupandian, learned Standing Counsel takes on behalf of the respondents.

3. By consent of both the parties, the writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

4. It is the case of the petitioner that the first respondent/Corporation had leased Shop No.N-11, measuring 102 sq. ft. belonging to them, located at the new bus stand, for a period of three years from 2021. A sum of Rs.63,365/- was fixed as rent. It is further submitted that the lease was subject to renewal once in three years, with an enhancement of 15% for every nine years. The petitioner submits that he is an allottee of the said bus stand and has been paying rent, including GST, on the 10th of every succeeding month without any delay. At this juncture, 60 new additional shops were opened in the bus stand and on the very same day the respondents officials forced the petitioner and the other shop keepers to execute a bond accepting that they would pay the revised rent at the rate of Rs.225/- per sq.ft., per month on par with the rent fixed to the



5. The petitioner submits that 60 additional shops were opened on 08.12.2021, and the petitioner reopened his shop on 15.12.2021. On the same day, the respondents orally directed the petitioner and other shopkeepers to pay rent on par with the rent fixed for the newly opened shops opened on 08.12.2021. In this regard, the petitioner and shopkeepers were compelled to execute a bond accepting the revised rent. However, the petitioner and others refused to execute any such bond and opposed the proposed revision of rent.



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6. The respondents nevertheless threatened the shopkeepers and insisted that they accept the revised rent at the rate of Rs. 225/- per sq. ft. per month. In respect of the petitioner, the first respondent issued a rental revision order dated 15.12.2021. Subsequently, without issuing any prior show cause notice, the first respondent passed an eviction order dated 17.05.2022. Challenging the same, the shopkeepers filed W.P.(MD)No. 10394 of 2022 to quash the eviction order dated 17.05.2022, published in Dinamani Daily on 18.05.2022, and for a consequential direction to permit them to continue in the leased shops until the expiry of the lease period. The said writ petition was allowed. Aggrieved thereby, the respondents filed W.A.(MD) No.1530 of 2022. It was reported before the Division Bench that except for 26 shops, the remaining 97 shops had given an undertaking agreeing to pay the revised lease rent of Rs.225/- per sq. ft. Therefore, an order of interim stay was granted for eight weeks and thereafter, the Division Bench, by order dated 30.11.2023, dismissed the writ petition.



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7. Aggrieved thereby, the shopkeepers filed SLP (C) Nos. 27248–27249 and 27739–27756 of 2023. In the meantime, the Corporation itself reduced the lease rent to Rs.140/- per sq. ft. Accordingly, the SLPs were disposed of by orders dated 13.12.2023 and 14.12.2023, directing the petitioners therein, including the present petitioner, to furnish an undertaking to pay rent at Rs. 140/- per sq. ft. within a period of three weeks. It was further directed that the petitioners shall not be dispossessed from their respective shops.

8. The petitioner submits that in view of the aforesaid orders, the rent payable is only Rs.140/- per sq. ft. While so, the second respondent issued a Demand Notice dated 29.07.2025, demanding arrears of rent at Rs. 621/- per sq. ft., which is in total violation of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

9. It is further submitted that the first respondent's proposal to the Director of Municipal Administration, Chennai, recommended a reduction of rent from Rs. 225/- per sq. ft. to Rs.90/- per sq. ft. for certain shops and



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platforms. Despite this, the respondents have not implemented the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court fixing the rent at Rs.140/- per sq. ft. for the shopkeepers. Challenging the same, the petitioner has approached this Court

10. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned counsel for the respondents.

11. Admittedly, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in SLP (C) Nos. 27248– 27249 and 27739–27756 of 2023, by order dated 13.12.2023, issued the following direction: “It is further submitted that the Municipal Corporation could not secure any person willing to pay the demanded lease rate of Rs.225/- per sq. ft., and therefore, the Corporation on their own have reduced the lease rental to a much lower rate for the first floor shops. The petitioners are willing to match the reduced rate of Rs.140/- per sq. ft. Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. The petitioners have agreed and subject to their furnishing individual undertaking to pay @ Rs.140/- per sq. ft within three weeks' time, the leaseholders shall not be dispossessed from the respective shops.”



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12. Thus, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has fixed the rate of rent only on the representation made by the first respondent himself. Therefore, the present demand is contrary to the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The learned counsel for the petitioner relies on the judgment of this Court in a similar matter in W.P.(MD) No. 21972 of 2025, etc. batch, dated 12.08.2025, in support of his contention.

13. Even according to the petitioner, the rental amount is liable to be enhanced once in nine years. The petitioner had originally agreed to pay the enhanced rent for a further period of nine years commencing from 18.07.2016. It is also their case that once in nine years, the rent has to be enhanced by 15%. However, the affidavit is silent about the original rent fixed in respect of the shops.

14. Be that as it may, the revised rate of Rs.225/- per sq. ft. was the subject matter of challenge, which ultimately resulted in the Hon'ble Supreme Court directing the respondents to refix the rent at Rs. 140/- per sq. ft. The said order was passed in writ proceedings initiated in the year 2021.



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15. Accordingly, this writ petition is allowed. The impugned Demand Notice dated 29.07.2025 issued by the 2nd respondent is quashed. Consequently, the respondents are directed to refix the rent at the rate of Rs.140/- per sq. ft. per month, as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in respect of other shopkeepers, by order dated 13.12.2023 passed in SLP (C) No. 27248–27249 of 2023. Further, the respondents are directed to adjust the excess rental amount collected from the petitioner towards the future rent payable by the petitioner. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

28.11.2025

NCC :yes/No
Index :yes/No
Internet:yes/No
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P.T.ASHA, J.

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To

1. The Commissioner,
Tirunelveli Corporation,
Tirunelveli 627 001,
Tirunelveli District.
2. The Assistant Commissioner,
Melapalayam Zone,
Tirunelveli Corporation,
Tirunelveli 627001,
Tirunelveli District.

W.P.(MD).No.34589 of 2025

and

W.M.P(MD)Nos.27274 and 27275 of 2025

28.11.2025