



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 11-06-2026

CORAM

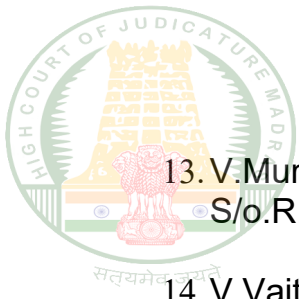
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE S. M. SUBRAMANIAM

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE N.SENTHILKUMAR

**Writ Petition No.9084 of 2026
and W.M.P.No.9807 of 2026**

1. R.Vimalraj
S/o.R.Ramalingam
2. K.Narasimman
S/o.Kaliyamoorthy
3. D.Bakkiaraj,
S/o.Dhasal
4. A.Rajesh Kumar,
S/o.Arumugam
5. A.Purushothaman
S/o.M.Arumugam
6. V.Sankar
S/o.Venkatesan
7. M.Chandiramavuleeswaran
S/o.T.Mani
8. P.Selvaraju
S/o.Poogavanam
9. A.Velmurugan,
S/o.A.Anjapuly
10. G.Prabakaran
S/o.G.Gnanasekar
11. V.Yogaraj
S/o.R.Veeramani
12. B.Krishnachandran
S/o.Boobalan



13. V.Murugan
S/o.R.Velu

14. V.Vaithilingam
S/o.Varadhan

15. N.Ponnuswami
S/o.Natarajan

16. S.Rajaraman
S/o.Sundaram

17. S.Ananthakumaran
S/o.Suntharamurthy

18. S.Vinothkumar
S/o.Subramanian

19. V.Pathanjali
S/o.K.Venugopal

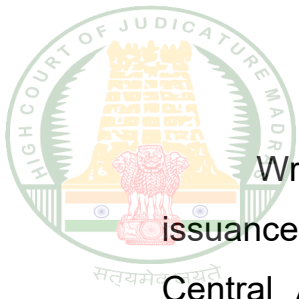
20. M.Devanath
S/o.Manohar

..Petitioners

Vs

1. The Union of India
represented by the Secretary,
Electricity Department,
Chief Secretariat,
Government of Puducherry,
Puducherry 605 001.
2. The Superintending Engineer-cum-Head of
Department,
Electricity Department,
No.137, N.S.C. Bose Road,
Puducherry 605 001.
3. The Registrar,
Central Administrative Tribunal,
Chennai Bench,
High Court Campus, Chennai 600 104.

..Respondents



Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chennai Branch in O.A.No.310/00943 of 2025, dated 14.11.2025 and quash the same and direct the first respondent to relax the age criterion specified in Part-IV of the Notification No.1-22/ED/OSD/Estt./A4/2023, dated 04.04.2025 by 3 years for OBC candidates and 5 years for SC and ST Candidates in exercise of powers conferred in Recruitment Rule 6 to enable the second respondent to consider the applications filed by the petitioners for the post of Construction Helper in the Pondicherry Electricity Department pursuant to Notification No.1-22/ED/OSD/Estt./A4/2023, dated 04.04.2025 on merits by following clause 9 dealing with the Mode of Recruitment in the Notification dated 04.04.2025.

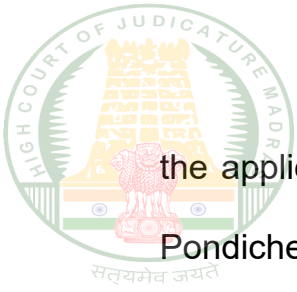
For Petitioner : Mrs.Nalini Chidambaram,
Senior Counsel for Ms.C.Uma

For Respondents : Mr.R.Syed Musthafa,
Special Government Pleader (Puducherry)
[R1 & R2]
Tribunal (CAT) [R3]

ORDER

(Made by S.M.Subramaniam J.)

The present writ petition has been instituted challenging the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chennai Bench, dated 14.11.2025 passed in O.A.No.310/00943 of 2025 and for a direction to first respondent to relax the age criterion specified in Part-IV of the Notification No.1-22/ED/OSD/Estt./A4/2023, dated 04.04.2025 by 3 years for OBC candidates and 5 years for SC and ST Candidates in exercise of powers conferred in Recruitment Rule 6 to enable the second respondent to consider



the applications filed by petitioners for the post of Construction Helper in the Pondicherry Electricity Department pursuant to Notification

WEB COPY No.1-22/ED/OSD/Estt./A4/2023, dated 04.04.2025, on merits by following clause 9 dealing with the Mode of Recruitment in the Notification dated 04.04.2025.

2. The original applicants before the Central Administrative Tribunal are the writ petitioners before this Court. The application was filed seeking a direction to respondents to accept the offline application of writ petitioners and permit them to participate in the selection process for the post of Construction Helper, pursuant to recruitment notification dated 04.04.2025 by granting suitable age relaxation.

3. The prescription of age, educational qualification criteria for appointment are policy matters and the prerogative of the employer. The criteria for recruitment has been notified. Thus, the age limit prescribed in the notification is binding on the candidates, who are aspiring to secure public employment through open competitive process. Admittedly, in the present case, the writ petitioners were over aged and not allowed to participate in the process of selection.



4. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for writ petitioners would submit that pursuant to the interim order of the Court, the writ petitioners were permitted to write the written examination. Such interim order would not confer any right to claim age relaxation or final order from the Tribunal or the High Court to relax the age limit fixed under the recruitment notification. Interim orders passed by the Courts are always subject to the final orders and if the case is finally decided against the petitioners, then the petitioners cannot claim any benefit from and out of the interim orders granted. Therefore, mere participating in the written examination pursuant to the interim order would not be a ground to seek age relaxation either before the Tribunal or before the High Court.

5. Granting relaxation of age and educational qualification criteria for appointment cannot be considered by the Courts. In any event, granting any such relaxation of age would result in causing discrimination amongst candidates, who are all otherwise eligible in terms of the recruitment notification. That apart, it is a policy matter and therefore, would fall beyond the realm of the power of judicial review under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. The Central Administrative Tribunal has considered the legal principles in right perspective and relied on the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This Court does not find any infirmity in the order of the Central Administrative Tribunal, which is impugned.



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**S.M.SUBRAMANIAM, J.
AND
N.SENTHILKUMAR, J.**

gm

Accordingly, this writ petition is dismissed. No costs. Consequently,
connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

**(S.M.S.,J.) (N.S.,J.)
11-06-2026**

Index: Yes
Speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes
gm

To

1. The Secretary,
Electricity Department,
Chief Secretariat,
Government of Puducherry,
Puducherry 605 001.
2. The Superintending Engineer-cum-Head of
Department,
Electricity Department,
No.137, N.S.C. Bose Road,
Puducherry 605 001.
3. The Registrar,
Central Administrative Tribunal,
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High Court Campus,
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(2/2)