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WP No. 6109 of 2



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25-02-2026

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

WP No. 6109 of 2026

and WMP.Nos.6606 & 6607 of 2026

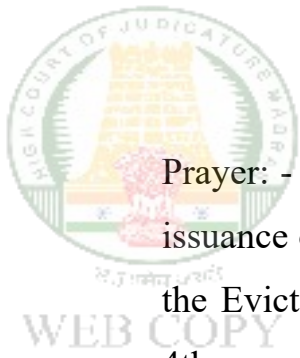
M.H.Shaheen Shaw

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Government Of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Additional chief Secretary to the
Government, Tourism, Culture and Religious
Endowments Department, Secretariat, Fort
St.George, Chennai 09
2. The collector
collectorate, Udhagamandalam(Ooty),
The Nilgiris 643 001
3. The Regional Manager
Tamil Nadu Tourism Development corporation,
Udhagamandalam(Ooty),
The Nilgiris 643 001
4. The Manager
Tamil Nadu Tourism Development corporation,
Boat House, Udhagamandalam(Ooty),
The Nilgiris

..Respondent(s)



Prayer: - Writ petition under Article 226 of the constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records relating to the Eviction Notice No. 340/ P.E/ Ooty/ 2025 dated 26.12.2025 issued by the 4th respondent and quash the same as illegal and direct the 4th respondent to permit the petitioner to carry on Instant Photography service to the visiting tourists as had been earlier.

For Petitioner(s): Mr. G.Jaisivamaraj

For Respondent(s): Mr.S.Rajesh,GA for R1 and R2

Mr.M. Habeeh Rahman, Standing Counsel
for R3 and R4

ORDER

Challenging the Eviction notice issued by the 4th respondent, the petitioner is before this Court.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that he is a permanent resident of Udhagamandalam. The petitioner and his father have been carrying on instant photography work at the Boat House, Ooty. For this purpose, he had been issued with licences and identity cards to carry out the photography work. It appears that on 26.11.2025, the 3rd respondent had invited a tender for providing instant photography services to visiting tourists at the Boat House, Ooty for a period of three years through a Notice Inviting Tender. Both technical as well as price bids were invited.



The contract was for 3 years initially for one year extendable by two years.

The same was challenged by way of writ petition in W.P.No.50443 of 2025 before this Court and this Court, by an order dated 26.12.2025 directed the respondents to not to issue any work order. The 4th respondent, being aware of the said order, issued the impugned notice, aggrieved by which, the petitioner is before this Court.

3. It is the contention of the respondents that the authorities had received complaints against certain individual photographers alleging that they were demanding exorbitant charges from tourists. Therefore, the licence of the petitioner was not renewed. The respondents would submit that there was no proper system in place and that the activity was highly unregulated as a result of which some photographers were not only behaving rudely but were also charging huge sums from tourists. Therefore, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) had decided to engage professionals and with this mind, had published the Notice Inviting Tender. The tender process was conducted and tender was issued in favour of MS.Studio of Yercaud and therefore, the eviction order was issued to the petitioner. Therefore, they sought for dismissal of the writ petition.



4. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the tender notice had been issued by a person who was not competent to issue the same. He would further submit that under the Right to Information Act, he had obtained details about the TTDC. Under the said information, the powers and duties of officers and employees would clearly show that the day-to-day activities of the TTDC are managed by the Board of Directors and that the Board delegates its powers. Likewise, in the decision-making process, it is the Chairman and the Managing Director who look after the management of the TTDC, and the various Heads of Departments report to the Chairman and the Managing Director. They supervise their respective departments and are accountable for the performance of those departments. Therefore, he would submit that the Regional Manager, TTDC, Udhagamandalam, does not have the authority to float the tender. Further, the tender is silent about the price, which is fatal to the respondents, inasmuch as competent bidders may not participate in such tenders. That apart, the petitioner is kept in the dark regarding the pricing. Therefore, he sought to quash the tender notice and subsequent, eviction notice.



5. Heard the learned counsels on both sides and perused the materials available on record.

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6. The arguments now advanced by the petitioner does not find place in the pleadings before this Court. These contentions appear to have been developed subsequently. That apart, the petitioner, who claim to have been carrying on instant photography work at the Boat House, Ooty, ought to be aware of the price to be quoted with respect to the scope of work under the impugned tender notification. The absence of a specified price in the tender notification is not fatal, since the respondents are calling for bids from persons engaged in the business of photography, and it is open to such bidders to quote their respective prices and for the authorities to select the best bid. As submitted by the learned counsel for the respondents, the petitioner has not even participated in the tender process and, without doing so, has rushed to this Court. His intention appears to be to continue to monopolise the photography work at the Boat House. The grounds that are raised during arguments are not the grounds on which the writ petition has been filed. The petitioner has not made out any case to quash the Notice Inviting Tender and the eviction notice.



7. Accordingly, the writ petition stands dismissed. It is informed that this Court had earlier permitted the tender process to proceed and had only put a fetter on the issuance of the work order. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed. No costs.

25-02-2026

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

SHR

To

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