



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 20-02-2026

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THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

WP No. 7039 of 2026

R.Ramola,

..Petitioner

Vs

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Department of Co-operation Food and
Consumer Protection,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Registrar,
State Consumer Disputes Redressal
Commission,
TNPSC Road, V.O.C.Nagar (Behind TNPSC),
Park Town, Chennai-600 003

..Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue Writ of Mandamus directing the Respondents to extend the tenure of the petitioner as Member of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Namakkal, with the existing service condition, beyond 23.03.2026 until the completion of recruitment process after the new rules to be notified by the Union of India, in view of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 21.05.2025 in Civil Appeal No.9982 of 2024 in Ganeshkumar Rajeshwarrao Selukkar and others Vs.Mahendra Bhaskar Limaye.



For Petitioner : Mr.M.Velmurugan

For Respondents : Mr.M.Rajendiran
Additional Government Pleader

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed seeking a direction to the respondents to extend the tenure of the petitioner as Member of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Namakkal, beyond 23.03.2026 until completion of the recruitment process under the New Rules, to be notified by the Union of India, in view of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 21.05.2025 in Civil Appeal No.9982 of 2024 in Ganeshkumar Rajeshwarrao Selukkar and others Vs.Mahendra Bhaskar Limaye.

2. Heard the learned counsels appearing on either side. With the consent of both sides, the Writ Petition is taken up for hearing at the admission stage itself.

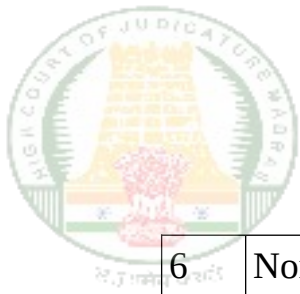
3. The brief facts of the case is as follows:

3.1. The petitioner has been selected as Member, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Salem through Government Order dated 18.03.2022 and appointed vide proceedings dated 21.03.2022 and took charge on 24.03.2022. The petitioner-s recruitment and appointment were made in accordance with the Consumer Protection (Qualification for Appointment,



Method of Recruitment, Procedure of Appointment, Term of Office, Resignation and Removal of the President and Members of the State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as -the 2020 Rules). As per Rule 10 of the 2020 Rules (as amended in 2022), every member of the State Commission and the President and every Member of the District Commission shall hold office for a term of four years or upto the age of sixty~five years, whichever is earlier and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term of four years subject to the age limit of sixty five years and such reappointment shall be made on the basis of the recommendation of the Selection Committee. The petitioner-s tenure as Member is due to end on 23.03.2026. However, the petitioner is entitled to continue till the recruitment process under the New Rules to be notified and hence, the present Writ Petition for the aforesaid relief.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner drew the attention of this Court to the decision of the Hon-ble Supreme Court in the case of Ganeshkumar Rajeshwarrao Selukar and Ors vs Mehendra Bhaskar Limaye and Ors reported in (2025) 8 SCC 634, wherein directions with regard to the status of appointment to the post of Presidents and Members of the State and District Commissions has been issued. The relevant direction is as follows:



6	Non~Judicial Members of the State Commission and the Members of the District Commission, who have given the written examination and viva voce	a) If already appointed and serving, they shall be allowed to continue in service for the entirety of their tenure. In the event of their tenure ending before the completion of the recruitment process under the new rules to be notified, their appointment shall be allowed to continue until the completion of the said recruitment process.
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Thus, it is clear that in the event of completion of tenure before the completion of the recruitment process, their appointment shall be allowed to continue till the completion of recruitment process. Hence, he prayed to allow the Writ Petition.

5. The learned counsel for the respondents would submit that the petitioner's tenure is over by 23.03.2026 and as such, he cannot be permitted to continue till the new recruitment to the post of Member of District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Namakkal, however, he has not disputed the facts of the case and also fairly admitted the contentions put forth by the learned counsel for the petitioner.



6. In the case on hand, the petitioner was appointed as Member, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Salem on 21.03.2022. His tenure as per Rule 10 of the Rules, shall hold office for a term of four years or upto the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier. Now, the petitioner's tenure is due to end on 23.03.2026. But so far, there is no recruitment to the post of Member, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Namakkal. In the light of the decision of the Hon'ble Apex Court as stated supra, the respondents are directed to permit the petitioner to continue the service as Member, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Namakkal till the completion of recruitment process under the new Rules.

7. With the above direction, the Writ Petition stands allowed. There shall be no order as to costs.

20-02-2026

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

MRN

Note: Issue Order Copy by 23.02.2026



To

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Department Co-operation Food and Consumer Protection,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Secretariat, Fort St.George,
Chennai-600 009.

2. The Registrar,
State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission,
TNPSC Road,V.O.C.Nagar (Behind TNPSC),
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M.DHANDAPANI, J.

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