



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 18-06-2026

CORAM

WEB COPY

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ

WP No. 23027 of 2026

and WMP Nos.24953, 24954 and 24955 of 2026

Tharu & Sons
2nd Floor, Kalamassery Service Co-
Operative Bank Building ,
North Kalamassery,
Near Metro Pillar No.250 Kalamassery,
P.O., Ernakulam District, Kerala- 683 104
Represented by its Managing Partner
Mr.Antony Tharu.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The General Manager
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai- 600 003.
2. The Chief Rolling Stock Engineer
(Chg), Office of the Principal Chief
Mechanical Engineer,
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai-600 003.
3. The Senior Divisional Mechanical
Engineer, Chennai Division,
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai-03.
4. The Senior Divisional Mechanical
Engineer,
Thiruvananthapuram Division,
Thycadu.P.O, Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala- 695014.



..Respondent(s)

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent No.2 to consider the Expression of Interest Submitted by the Petitioner on 11.04.2026 and issue a fresh empaneled list of service providers including the petitioner.

For Petitioner(s): Mr. Thriyambak J.Kannan

For Respondent(s): Mr. P.T.Ramkumar,
Standing Counsel for R1 to R3.

ORDER

By consent of learned counsel on both sides, this writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.

2. The present writ petition has been filed praying for a Writ of Mandamus to direct the second Respondent to consider the Expression of Interest submitted by petitioner on 11.04.2026, and include petitioner in list of service providers to be freshly empanelled.

3. Learned counsel for petitioner would submit that petitioner is a partnership firm engaged in the business of laundry, housekeeping, on board housekeeping services, bedroll management services, mechanized and manual cleaning services, etc. for the Indian Railway for over 25 years. He would



submit that second respondent issued a notice dated 20.03.2026 to petitioner, inviting Expressions Of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of service providers for implementation of the reformed on-board service policy in the Southern Railway.

3.1. Learned counsel would further submit that the expression of interest contemplated that future tenders would be invited only from entities that were successfully empanelled as service providers. In other words empanelment is a condition precedent/prerequisite for participation in the tender process. He would further submit that petitioner submitted its expression of interest on 11.04.2026 along with prescribed documents and annexures. He would also submit that respondents neither acknowledged petitioner's submission of its Expression of Interest nor communicated any decision as to the rejection of petitioner's request or application for empanelment.

3.2. Learned counsel would then submit that as a matter of fact, second respondent had finalised the list of empanelled service providers. Petitioner thereafter submitted representations dated 25.05.2026, 26.05.2026 and 05.06.2026 requesting second respondent to indicate the status of its expression of interest, while also objecting to its exclusion, inasmuch as according to the petitioner, it satisfies the eligibility criteria. Thereafter, there has been tenders which have been floated, inasmuch petitioner was not empanelled in list of



service providers, it was disqualified/disabled from participating in those tenders. Under these circumstances, petitioner has filed this Writ Petition for the issuance of a writ of Mandamus seeking the aforementioned prayer.

4. Learned counsel for respondents would submit that petitioner does not satisfy the eligibility criteria, more particularly Clause 7 of the Notice for Expressions of Interest for Empanelment of service provider for implementation of the reformed on-board service policy in Southern Railway which sets out a number of criteria:

43

Notice for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of service provider for implementation of the reformed on-board service policy in Southern Railway

1.	EOI Notice No.	SR/EnHM/Empanelment/2026/Onboard-1
2.	Name	Empanelment of service provider for implementation of the reformed on-board service policy in Southern Railway
3.	Date of issue	20.03.2026
4.	Registration fees	Nil
5.	Last date & Time for submission of Documents	13.04.2026 by 17:30 hrs.
6.	Validity of Empanelment	The empanelment shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of publication of the empanelment list.
7.	Address for submission of application	Office of the PCME, 6th Floor, NGO Annex, Park Town, Chennai – 600003
Bidders are advised to regularly check our website (https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in/) for any corrigendum/amendments.		

Chief Rolling Stock Engineer (Chg)



48

WEB COPY

6.8	Employee Strength The bidder must have a employee strength of atleast 1000 people (on its own Pay Roll).	EPF Challan /ECR copy
-----	--	-----------------------

7. Scoring parameters for empanelment of Firms are given below. The maximum point for empanelment of the firm is 100 points and firms with more than 70 points will be considered for empanelment. In case more than 7 firms score more than 70 points, only top 7 firms in terms of points would be empaneled.

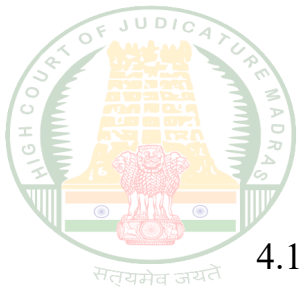
Sl. No.	Eligibility Criteria	Documents to be submitted for evaluation	Parameter/Marks
7.1	The bidder must have minimum three (3) years' experience during the last seven (7) years in providing Mechanized Housekeeping/Facility Management services in any or all of the following sectors: -	- The work order of the projects/ previously completed satisfying the requirements in this section. - Proof of the annual value of the contract (duly certified by a Chartered Accountant) - Completion certificate/ continuation certificate from client firm authorizing annual value of contract and satisfactory completion/continuation of work done. - Client certificate for experience should show the nature of work done, the value of work, date of start, date of completion as per agreement/ status of ongoing work, actual date of completion and satisfactory completion of work. In case of a composite contract, the value of similar work done will be restricted to housekeeping and mechanised cleaning. - Client certificate for works in large corporate offices and important govt. buildings must also mention average occupation of building during working hours.	Firms with extensive work experience in diverse sectors shall earn more points. (Maximum Points: 20)
	Passenger Terminals of Airports (Domestic or International) excluding Regional Airports		5
	Hotels, Resorts and Hospitality chains (Min. 4-Star and above rated by Hotel & Restaurant Approval & Classification Committee)		5
	Multi-specialty Hospital having minimum 300 beds, offering multiple clinical specialties under one administrative system, and holding valid NABH accreditation or equivalent national/ international accreditation.		5
	Large corporate offices (minimum built-up area of 10,000 Sq. m. (combined, if many campuses are there) or offices with minimum occupation of 1000 staffs)		3
	Important govt. buildings housing Constitutional Authorities, Ministries/ Departments, Secretariat offices, Apex Judicial Institutions, Education Institutions,		2



WEB COPY

49

	statutory/regulatory bodies, and operating under controlled security access with regular public interface with minimum occupation of 2000 staffs.		
7.2	Number of years in Operation: Number of years of providing Housekeeping/ Facility Management services in sectors mentioned at sl. no. 7.1 as on the date of calling of EoI.	1. Contract agreements/Work orders showing the date of start of work 2. Completion certificate/ continuation certificate from authorized person of the client showing completion/ continuation with satisfactory performance.	Maximum Points: 20 05-10 years: 5 points 10-15 years: 10 points 15 years and more: 20 points
7.3	Digital Monitoring System Existing app-based monitoring system with: - Geo-tagged & time-stamped photo uploads - Dashboard access for client - Task allocation & tracking - GPS/mobile-based workforce tracking. - Real-time reporting and MIS generation.	Demonstration document / brochure of monitoring app. Screenshots of: - Geo-tagged photos - Dashboard view - Task tracking interface - Screenshots of MIS reports. - Client references where app is deployed.	Maximum points: 10 2 points 2 points 2 points 2 points 2 points
7.4	The bidder must have an average annual turnover of at least Rs. 50 crores for the last three consecutive financial years as on 31.03.2025 (FY 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25).	Audited balance sheet certified by a Chartered Accountant.	Maximum points: 30 50 -100 Crores: 5 points 100 – 200 Crores: 10 points 200 - 300 Crores: 20 points More than 300 Crores: 30 points.
7.5	The bidder must have a minimum employee strength of 1000 people (on its own Pay Roll).	EPF Challan /ECR copy	Maximum points: 20 1000 to 2000: 5 points 2000 to 3500: 10 points 3500 to 5000: 15 points

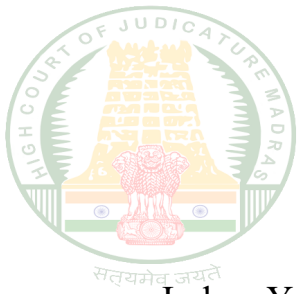


4.1. Learned counsel for respondents submitted that petitioner may not have a right to be informed of the reasons for its disqualification as it is within the discretion of second respondent to empanel or reject empanelment of an applicant. He would submit, on instructions, that petitioner does not satisfy the criteria set out in Clause 7 of the above notification. He would also submit that since the petitioner has now approached this Court, the respondents would furnish the reasons for finding that the petitioner does not satisfy the eligibility criteria. Agreed to by the learned counsel for petitioner.

5. Recording the submission, the Writ Petition stands disposed of. The above exercise shall be completed within a period of two (2) weeks from the date of uploading of web copy without waiting for receipt of certified copy of the order. It is always open to petitioner on being furnished with the reasons to work out its remedy in accordance with law, including the right to seek empanelment. It is made clear that this Court has not expressed any views with regard to the merits of the case and it is open to the concerned respondent to consider the case on its own merits and in accordance with law. Consequently connected miscellaneous petitions are closed. No costs.

jv

18-06-2026



Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

To

1. The General Manager
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai- 600 003.
2. The Chief Rolling Stock Engineer
(Chg), Office of the Principal Chief
Mechanical Engineer,
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai-600 003.
3. The Senior Divisional Mechanical
Engineer, Chennai Division,
Southern Railway,
6th Floor, NGO Annex,
Park Town, Chennai-03.
4. The Senior Divisional Mechanical
Engineer,
Thiruvananthapuram Division,
Thycadu.P.O, Thiruvananthapuram,
Kerala- 695014.



WEB COPY

WP No. 23027 of 2



MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ, J.

jv

WP No. 23027 of 2026

18-06-2026