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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 28-10-2026

CORAM

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

WP No. 41940 of 2026

CNR:{HCMA012325492026}

M/s Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd
Rep by its Authorized Signatory
Dr. Stephen Arul.J
No 58/1 Narayana Guru Road
Saibaba Colony
Coimbatore - 641 011.

..Petitioner

Vs

1. The Director
   Directorate of Horticulture and Plantation Crops,
   3rd Floor, Agricultural Complex,
   Chepauk, Chennai 600 005.

2. The Deputy Director of Horticulture
   Perambalur District
   Collectorate Complex
   Perambalur - 621 212.

..Respondents

PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records pertaining to the impugned order passed by the 1st respondent vide Letter No. ONAME 4 /14567/2026 dated 19.08.2026 and quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to disburse the interest amount at the rate of 12% per annum for 177 months, and pass orders.

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For Petitioner: M/r.Babu Rangasamy
of M/s.Babu Rangasamy Associates

For Respondent(s): Mr.J.V.Sakthi Krishnan
Government Advocate for R1 & R2

ORDER

The writ petition is filed to quash the impugned order passed by the first respondent vide Letter No.ONAME4/14567/2026 dated 19.08.2026 and to direct the respondents to disburse the interest amount at the rate of 12% per annum for 177 months.

2. The petitioner is engaged in the business of manufacturing and supplying irrigation equipments including drip irrigation system. It had supplied the drip irrigation equipment to the Horticulture Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in the year 2008-2009, for which, the second respondent had also paid the petitioner a sum of Rs.10,97,600/- by way of cheque. However, the cheque was lost and the said amount was not encashed. Therefore, the petitioner had approached the second respondent with its representations dated 21.03.2021, 30.09.2021, 26.11.2021, 27.11.2021, 09.10.2023, 21.11.2023 and 14.03.2024, requesting to release the payment, and also the first respondent vide its representations on 26.11.2023 and 14.03.2024. Despite the repeated representations of the petitioner, the amount remained unpaid. Therefore, the

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petitioner sent a legal notice dated 27.01.2025 to the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Perambalur and the Director of Horticulture, Chennai, calling upon them to make payment of Rs.10,97,600/- together with interest of Rs.31,44,624/-. Since no response is forthcoming, the petitioner was constrained to file W.P. No.6620 of 2026, and this Court by order dated 24.02.2026 has disposed of the said writ petition, directing the first respondent to dispose of the petitioner's representation within three weeks.

3. Pursuant to the orders of this Court, the petitioner had submitted his representation on 04.04.2026 to the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Perambalur, seeking settlement of payment along with interest. Subsequently, on 14.05.2025, the petitioner received the payment of Rs.10,97,600/- towards principal amount, however, no interest was paid thereon. The petitioner therefore claims he is entitled to the interest for the unpaid cheque amount for 177 months for the period from 24.09.2009 to 30.06.2025, and that the second respondent is liable to pay the interest amount. On 09.07.2026, the petitioner had submitted his representation to the respondents requesting to pay the interest amount. However, the first respondent vide the impugned letter dated 19.08.2026 had declined to pay the interest amount. Aggrieved by the same, the petitioner is before this Court.

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4. Heard the learned counsel on either side and also perused the materials placed on record.

5. From a perusal of the affidavit and documents annexed in the typed set of papers to the writ petition, it is seen that the petitioner herein had entered into an agreement with the Horticulture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, namely, the second respondent for supply of drip irrigation system. The second respondent had paid a sum of Rs.10,97,600/- by way of cheque to the petitioner for the supply made during the year 2008-2009. The cheque was lost at the petitioner's end and it was not encashed. This was also brought to the notice of the respondents and by letter dated 25.06.2015, the Treasury Officer had also informed the petitioner that the cheque had become stale. The records would show that several representations were made by the petitioner spanning over five years and a legal notice dated 27.01.2025, where the petitioner had sought to recover a sum of Rs.10,97,600/- towards the principal amount and Rs.31,44,624/- towards interest. Ultimately, the principal was paid on 14.05.2026. The petitioner has now filed the above writ petition for a mandamus directing the respondents to pay interest for the delayed payment.

6. The dispute between the petitioner and the respondents is purely contractual. The petitioner cannot seek to enforce the contract by invoking the extraordinary jurisdiction of this Court under Article 226. Therefore, the writ

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petition stands dismissed. It is open to the petitioner to seek its remedy elsewhere. No costs.

28-10-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

DS

To:

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