



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 09.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026
& W.M.P(MD)Nos.2815 & 2818 of 2026

M/s.Sathiah Ramesh
GSTIN 33ANEP0121Q1ZZ
Represented by its Proprietor, S.Ramesh
No.115/95, North 4th Street
Pudukkottai - 622 001.

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Deputy Commissioner (State Tax)
Pudukkottai Zone.

2. The State Tax Officer / Assistant Commissioner (ST)
Pudukkottai-I Assessment Circle
Commercial Taxes Department
Pudukkottai District.

3. The Divisional Engineer
Highways and Rural Works Department
Panagal Building, Anna Salai East Gate
Thanjavur - 613 001.

... Respondent

Prayer:

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India
praying to issue a Writ of Certiorari, calling for the records relating to



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

the adjudication order dated 18.07.2025 passed by the 2nd respondent in Form GST DRC-07, Reference No. GSTIN 33ANEP0121Q1ZZ/2022-2023, for the financial year 2022-23, together with all connected proceedings including Form GST DRC-13 dated 13.11.2025 issued by the 2nd Respondent and Form GST DRC-09 dated 10.12.2025 issued by the 1st Respondent and quash the same as illegal, arbitrary, non-speaking and violative of principles of natural justice and statutory provisions. Further direct the 2nd Respondent to proceed with the matter afresh and pass a fresh adjudication order in accordance with law, after granting the Petitioner a reasonable and effective opportunity of personal hearing to submit objections, considering all documentary evidences, reconciliation statements, and statutory compliance.

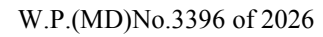
For Petitioner : Mr.Maharajan R

For Respondent : Mr.R.Suresh Kumar, AGP for R1&2
Mr.S.Shanmugavel, AGP for R3

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed challenging the impugned order dated 18.07.2025 passed by the 2nd respondent.

2. Mr.R.Suresh Kumar, learned Additional Government Pleader, takes notice on behalf of the respondents 1 & 2 and Mr.S.Shanmugavel,



learned Additional Government Pleader, takes notice on behalf of the 3rd respondent.

3. By consent of the parties, the main writ petition is taken up for disposal at the admission stage itself.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that in this case, all notices/communications were uploaded by the respondent in the GST common portal. Since the petitioner was not aware of the said notices, they failed to file their reply within the time. Under these circumstances, the impugned order came to be passed by the respondent without providing any opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner. Therefore, this petition has been filed.

5. Further, he would submit that the respondent has already recovered more than 25% of the disputed tax amount from the petitioner. Hence, he requests this Court to grant an opportunity to the petitioner to present their case before the respondent by setting aside the impugned order.



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

WEB COPY

6. On the other hand, the learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for the respondent would submit that the respondent had uploaded the notices in the GST Online Portal. But the petitioner failed to avail the said opportunity. Further, he has fairly admitted that no opportunity of personal hearing was provided to the petitioner prior to the passing of impugned order. Therefore, he requested this Court to remit the matters back to the respondent.

7. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Pleader for the respondent and also perused the materials available on record.

8. In the case on hand, it is evident that the show cause notice was uploaded on the GST Portal Tab. According to the petitioner, he was not aware of the issuance of the said show cause notice issued through the GST Portal and the original of the said show cause notice was not furnished to them. In such circumstances, this Court is of the view that the impugned assessment order came to be passed without affording any



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

opportunity of personal hearing to the petitioner, confirming the proposals contained in the show cause notice.

9. No doubt, sending notice by uploading in portal is a sufficient service, but, the Officer who is sending the repeated reminders, inspite of the fact that no response from the petitioner to the show cause notices etc., the Officer should have applied his/her mind and explored the possibility of sending notices by way of other modes prescribed in Section 169 of the GST Act, which are also the valid mode of service under the Act, otherwise it will not be an effective service, rather, it would only fulfilling the empty formalities. Merely passing an *ex parte* order by fulfilling the empty formalities will not serve any useful purpose and the same will only pave way for multiplicity of litigations, not only wasting the time of the Officer concerned, but also the precious time of the Appellate Authority/Tribunal and this Court as well.

10. Thus, when there is no response from the tax payer to the notice sent through a particular mode, the Officer who is issuing notices should strictly explore the possibilities of sending notices through some



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

other mode as prescribed in Section 169(1) of the Act, preferably by way of RPAD, which would ultimately achieve the object of the GST Act.

Therefore, this Court finds that there is a lack of opportunities being provided to serve the notices/orders etc., effectively to the petitioner.

11. Further, it was submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that the respondent has already recovered more than 25% of the disputed tax amount from the petitioner. In such view of the matter, this Court is inclined to set aside the impugned order dated 18.07.2025 passed by the 2nd respondent. Accordingly, this Court passes the following order:-

(i) The impugned order dated 18.07.2025 is set aside and the matter is remanded to the 2nd respondent for fresh consideration.

(ii) The petitioner shall file their reply/objection along with the required documents, if any, within a period of three weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(iii) On filing of such reply/objection by the petitioner, the respondent shall consider the same and issue a 14 days clear notice, by fixing the date of



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

personal hearing, to the petitioner and thereafter, pass appropriate orders on merits and in accordance with law, after hearing the petitioner, as expeditiously as possible.

12. With the above directions, this writ petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are also closed.

09.02.2026

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

To

1. The Deputy Commissioner (State Tax)
Pudukkottai Zone.

2. The State Tax Officer / Assistant Commissioner (ST)
Pudukkottai-I Assessment Circle
Commercial Taxes Department
Pudukkottai District.

3. The Divisional Engineer
Highways and Rural Works Department
Panagal Building, Anna Salai East Gate
Thanjavur - 613 001.



WEB COPY



W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026

KRISHNAN RAMASAMY.J.,

nsa

W.P.(MD)No.3396 of 2026
& W.M.P(MD)Nos.2815 & 2818 of 2026

09.02.2026