



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25-03-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE ABDUL QUDDHOSE

WP No. 11287 of 2026

AND

WMP NO. 12292 OF 2026, WP NO. 11295 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12304 OF 2026, WP NO. 11298 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12291 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12293 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12299 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12306 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12308 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12300 OF 2026, WMP NO. 12301 OF 2026

1. M.Manoharan

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The State Of Tamil Nadu
Rep by its Secretary to Government,
Rural Development Department, Fort St
George, Chennai - 600 009

2.The Director,
Rural Development Department,
Panagal Maligai, Saidapet, Chennai

3.The District Collector/Chairman,
District Rural Development Agency,
Salem District

4.The Executive Engineer,
District Rural Development Agency
(DRDA), Salem District

5.The Joint Director/Project Director
District Rural Development Agency
(DRDA), Salem District

6.Raja L,

Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s): Mr. Nissar Ahmed
Senior Counsel



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For Respondent:

for I.Kowser Nissar

Mr. N. Naveen Kumar
Government Advocate
for R1 to R5

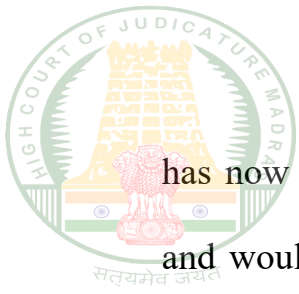
ORDER

The petitioner has challenged the impugned order dated 09.03.2026 passed by the fifth respondent, rejecting the technical bid submitted by the petitioner on the ground that the petitioner has not produced the requisite documents as per the tender conditions.

2. The petitioner categorically contends before this Court that they have strictly adhered to the terms and conditions of the tender by submitting all the requisite documents within the 48 hours deadline fixed under the tender conditions. Therefore, the question of rejecting the petitioner's technical bid does not arise. The petitioner claims that he is the successful bidder, being the L1 tenderer.

3. The learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner also drew the attention of this Court to the relevant documents submitted by the petitioner along with this writ petition to substantiate the petitioner's case that the petitioner is the L1 tenderer.

4. The learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner also drew the attention of this Court to the price bid submitted by the sixth respondent, who



has now been declared to be the successful bidder by the official respondents and would submit that the price bid of the sixth respondent is higher than the price bid submitted by the petitioner. Therefore, the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that, arbitrarily in order to aid the sixth respondent in awarding the contract, the fifth respondent has passed the impugned order dated 09.03.2026 rejecting the petitioner's technical bid by giving a false reason as if the petitioner did not submit the relevant documents within the 48-hour deadline period fixed under the tender conditions.

5. The learned Government Advocate appearing for the official respondents has also not produced any document to prove that the petitioner had submitted the relevant documents beyond the 48-hour deadline fixed under the tender conditions.

6. The petitioner has specifically averred in the affidavit filed in support of this writ petition that the petitioner had submitted all the relevant documents within the deadline period fixed under the tender conditions.

7. The learned Government Advocate appearing for the official respondents, on instructions, would submit that a work order has already been issued to the successful bidder, namely the sixth respondent, and therefore, he would submit that, at this stage, the petitioner cannot challenge the impugned proceedings of the fifth respondent, rejecting the petitioner's technical bid.



8. The learned Government Advocate appearing for the official respondents would therefore submit that the contract has already been entered into between the sixth respondent and the official respondents. However, the said contention is disputed by the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner, who would submit that till date a formal contract has not been entered into between the official respondents and the sixth respondent.

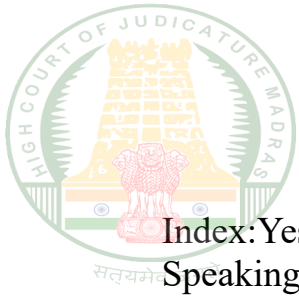
9. Since a *prima facie* case has been made out by the petitioner as seen from the documents placed on record by the petitioner before this Court, and since the respondents have not produced any documents at this stage to prove that the petitioner had submitted the requisite documents belatedly beyond the deadline period fixed under the tender conditions, this Court directs the respondents to maintain status quo.

10. The Respondents 1 to 5 are directed to file their counter on the next hearing date.

11. Notice to the sixth respondent, returnable by 06.04.2026. Private notice is also permitted.

12. Post on 06.04.2026 for counter and disposal.

25-03-2026



Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Internet: Yes

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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To

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ABDUL QUDDHOSE J.

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