



IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 29-04-2026

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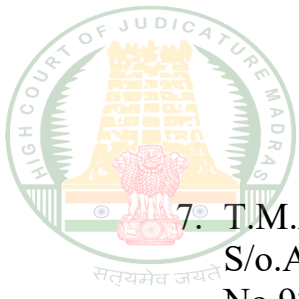
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ

W.P. No.25814 of 2023

and

W.M.P. Nos.6437 of 2026 and 25254 of 2023

1. J.Anandh
S/o S.Jothi No 94,
2nd Street, Siruvathur Post, Panruti Taluk,
Cuddlaore-607 106.
2. D.Prabakaran
S/o G.Devarasu,
No.156, Amman Kovil Street,
Kil Kanchirappathu Village, Meyyur Post,
Tiruvannamali Taluk and District-606 753.
3. D.Ramanathan
S/o.S.Devenderan,
No.325/2, Perumal Kovil Street, Melacheri
Village and Post Mazhiyur Via Chepet Taluk
Tiruvannamali District-604 502
4. S.Muthukrishnan,
S/o.P.Sekar,
No.127, Kotta Mettur Street, Mothakkal Post
Thandarampet Taluk,
Tiruvannamali District-606 708
5. A.Bharathi
S/o. T.Annaduai No.3/59,
A Nariyanahalli Vilalge Kethanahalli Post,
Karimangalam Taluk,
Dharmapuri District 636 511
6. Dr.A.M Magesh Selva Kumar
S/o. A.M.Munusamy Mig. 696 TNHB Colony
Vennampatti Quarters Lakkiamatti
Dharmapuri Taluk and District 636 705



7. T.M.Ahamed Hussain
S/o.A.Taj Mohammed,
No.979 / 3 Wood Cock Road,
St.Marys Hill, Ooty, The Nilgiris-643 001.

8. P.Thamarai Selvi
W/o K. Saravanan,
A-236 Township Bhel Ranipet-632 406.

9. J.Yuvaraj
S/o.K Jayagopal,
No.2/722 Govindavarma Street,
Pidamaneri Dharmapuri-636 701

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. By Its Principal Secretary Higher,
Education Department, Fort St.George,
Chennai 600 009
2. Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher
Education Higher Education Department,
Lady Wellington College Campus,
Kamarajar Salai Chennai 600 005
3. Bharathiar University,
Rep. By its Registrar, Coimboatre 641 046.

..Respondent(s)

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a writ of Declaration declaring G.O.Ms.No.244, Higher Education (K2) Department, dated 07.11.2022 issued by the 1st Respondent on the basis of the recommendation issued by the 2nd Respondent as illegal, arbitrary and contrary to law insofar as not treating the M.Sc., Organic Chemistry awarded by the 3rd Respondent University as not equivalent to M.Sc., Chemistry for the purpose of employment in Public Service and consequently direct the 1st and 2nd Respondent to treat M.Sc., Organic Chemistry awarded by the 3rd



Respondent University as equivalent to M.Sc.,Chemistry for the purpose of employment in Public Service by issuing necessary orders within the time frame stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner(s): Mr.Balan Haridas

For Respondent(s): Mr.Vadivel Deenadayalan
Additional Government Pleader (for R1 & R2)
Mr.S.Venkatesh
for M/s.Ajmal Associates (for R3)

ORDER

The present writ petition has been filed praying to declare G.O.Ms.No.244, Higher Education (K2) Department, dated 07.11.2022 issued by the 1st Respondent on the basis of the recommendation issued by the 2nd Respondent as illegal, arbitrary and contrary to law insofar as not treating the M.Sc., Organic Chemistry awarded by the 3rd Respondent University as not equivalent to M.Sc., Chemistry for the purpose of employment in Public Service and consequently direct the 1st and 2nd Respondent to treat M.Sc., Organic Chemistry awarded by the 3rd Respondent University as equivalent to M.Sc.,Chemistry for the purpose of employment in Public Service by issuing necessary orders within the time frame stipulated by this Court.

2. The short question that arises for consideration in this writ petition is whether M.Sc.Organic Chemistry degree offered by Bharathiar University is



equivalent to M.Sc.Chemistry for the purposes of public service.

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3. It is submitted by learned counsel for petitioner that the Equivalence Committee of the State has treated M.Sc. Organic Chemistry from various Universities, including Manonmaniam University, Annamalai University etc. as equivalent to M.Sc.Chemistry, however, with regard to M.Sc.Organic Chemistry degree offered by Bharathiar University, the Committee was of the view that it is not equivalent to M.Sc.Chemistry. One of the reasons which has been cited in the counter filed by the respondent was that the syllabus of Bharathiar University insofar as M.Sc. Organic Chemistry when compared with M.Sc.Chemistry was similar only to the extent of 60% whereas Equivalence Committee requires minimum of 75%, inasmuch as it fell short of the above parameter/requirement. Equivalent Certificate has not been issued. Learned counsel for petitioner would point out that M.Sc.Nano Technology has been treated as equivalent. Similarly M.Sc.Polymer Chemistry offered by University of Madras was treated as equivalent to M.Sc. Chemistry (UGC Curriculum), even though it matches only to the extent of 60.12% again falling short of the 75% requirement.

4. When it was pointed out that it appears to be no strict formula which



requires 75%. Learned Additional Government Pleader, Mr.Vadivelu

Deenadayalan would submit place on record the instructions dated 28.04.2026

received from Member Secretary FAC wherein it has been stated that it was resolved to revise the benchmark while granting equivalence certificate from 75% to 50% in terms of syllabus similarity. If the above parameter is applied, it was submitted that Msc.Organic Chemistry may have to be treated as equivalent to Msc.Chemistry. Thus, the grievance of the petitioner would possibly stand redressed. To make it clear, the instructions are extracted hereunder:

“I am directed to submit the following instructions, as required, in the matter relating to fixation of benchmark percentage for syllabus similarity by the Equivalence Committee.

The Government, in G.O.(Ms) No.441, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, dated 20.12.1993, had constituted an Equivalence Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, to examine requests from educational institutions regarding recognition and equivalence of courses for the purpose of appointment in Public Services.

Subsequently, in G.O. (Ms) No.93, Higher Education (K2) Department, dated 30.05.2019, the Government disbanded the earlier Equivalence Committee functioning under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission, and constituted a new Equivalence Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department.

As per the said Government Order, the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, is required to constitute a Subject Expert Committee comprising the concerned



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Chairpersons of the Boards of Studies to undertake a detailed comparison of the syllabus of the concerned courses and submit a report. Based on such report, the Equivalence Committee examines the matter and forwards its recommendations to the Government for issuance of appropriate orders. Thus, the Government is the competent authority to issue equivalence orders based on expert recommendations and resolutions of the Equivalence Committee.

In the 55th Equivalence Committee Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission held on 02.08.2017, a general resolution was passed recommending that equivalence may be considered only in cases where there is at least 75% similarity in syllabus between the courses and was resolved that Universities and Educational Institutions should ensure such similarity and obtain Government orders for equivalence at the time of introduction of new courses. This benchmark of 75% was thus evolved as an administrative guideline based on expert deliberations of the Committee to ensure substantial academic parity between courses.

Based on the above resolution, equivalence was generally granted only when syllabus similarity was 75% and above. In the present case, the syllabus similarity between M.Sc. Organic Chemistry awarded by Bharathiar University and M.Sc. Chemistry was assessed at 60.12%, and accordingly, it was earlier declared as "Not Equivalent."

However, in the 33rd Equivalence Committee Meeting held on 16.06.2025 under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, it was resolved, upon further academic consideration, to revise the benchmark and reduce the minimum percentage of syllabus similarity from 75% to 51%.

In view of the above revised criterion, cases which were earlier not considered equivalent solely on account of not meeting the 75% threshold may now be reconsidered, subject to fresh



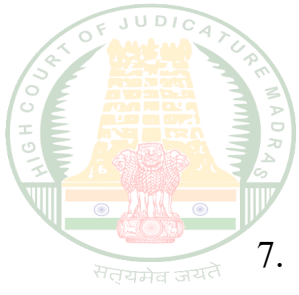
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evaluation. Accordingly, if the petitioner approaches the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, the matter may be placed before the Equivalence Committee for reassessment and in the present case, as the syllabus similarity is 60.12%, the degree is likely to qualify for equivalency the syllabus levised norms, subject to approval of the Equivalence Committee and orders of the Government.

It may also be submitted that the benchmark percentage for syllabus similarity is not fixed by statute, but is an evolving academic standard determined by expert bodies from time to time, taking into account the need to balance academic rigor with fairness to candidates.”

5. At this juncture, learned counsel for petitioner would submit that they may be permitted to submit an application before the 2nd respondent and the 3rd respondent may also be permitted to take out appropriate application before the concerned authority.

6. In that view of the matter, petitioner and 3rd respondent shall take out applications before the appropriate authority and once such applications are made, appropriate orders shall be passed by the concerned authority in accordance with law, while keeping in view the instructions dated 28.04.2026 that have been circulated, within a period of 6 weeks from the date of such application.



7. Accordingly, the writ petition stands disposed of. No costs.

Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

29-04-2026

Index: Yes/No

Speaking/Non-speaking order

Neutral Citation: Yes/No

MKA

To:

1.The Principal Secretary,
Higher Education Department,
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009

2.Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher Education
Higher Education Department,
Lady Wellington College Campus,
Kamarajar Salai Chennai 600 005

3.The Registrar,
Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore-641 046.



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MOHAMMED SHAFFIQ J.

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W.P. No.25814 of 2023

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