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W.P.No.27637 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 25.11.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.DHANDAPANI

W.P.No.27637 of 2023

B.Babu

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Union of India
Rep by its Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Commerce,
Central Secretariat, New Delhi.

2.The State of Tamil Nadu,
Rep by the Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort.St.Geroge, Chennai-600 009.

3.The Tea Board of India,
Rep by its Chairman,
Mr.Siddharth
No.14, B.D.M.Sarani,
Kolkata.

4.The District Collector,
Nilgiris District,
Udhagamandalam,
The Nilgiris.

5.The Nilgiris Bought Leaf Manufacturers Association,
Represented by its President, No.9,
Mount Road, Conoor-643 102, The Nilgiris Tamil Nadu

*[R-5 impleaded vide order dated 12.11.2025 made in
W.M.P.No.28398/2023 in W.P.No.27637 of 2023 by MDIJ]*

... Respondents



W.P.No.27637 of 2023

Prayer : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondents 1 and 3 to consider and pass appropriate orders to petitioner representation dated 12.07.2023 and 31.08.2023 respectively to re-fix the minimum price for green tea leafs.

For Petitioner : Mr.Harikrishnan Rajagopalan

For Respondents : Mr.Rajesh Vivekanandan,
Dy Additional Solicitor General
for RR-1 & 3.

: Mrs.S.Anitha,
Special Government Pleader
for RR-2 & 4

: Mr.E.Manoharan for R-5

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed seeking a direction to the respondents 1 and 3 to consider and pass appropriate orders on the petitioner's representation dated 12.07.2023 and 31.08.2023 respectively to re-fix the minimum price for green tea leafs.

2. It is the case of the petitioner that the petitioner is a small-scale tea grower in the Nilgiri District and owns an extent of 2 acres of tea estate. On an average, the petitioner produces 4000 kgs of green tea leaves per acre. However, as per the circular issued by the 3rd respondent dated 31.08.2023, the average green leaf price for the month of august is Rs.14.54 which is far below the cost of cultivation. Being



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aggrieved by non-fixation of minimum price for green tea leaves, the petitioner submitted a representation dated 12.07.2023 before the 3rd respondent requesting fixation of fair prices by convening a meeting between small tea growers, estate owner and bought leaf manufactures. However, the said representation has not been considered till date. Hence, the present Writ Petition.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that, it would suffice, if this Court issues a direction to the Respondents 1 & 3 to consider the petitioner's representation dated 12.07.2023 and 31.08.2023 and pass orders on the same on merits within the time that may be stipulated by this Court.

4. Learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for respondents 1 & 3 who has no objections to the such an order being passed submits that the process has already commenced before the 3rd respondent and that the same will be concluded after affording an opportunity of hearing to the tea growers, Estate owners and the bought leaf manufactures. He further submitted that appropriate recommendations will thereafter be made to the Central Government for passing suitable orders.



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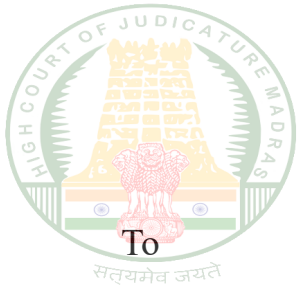
5. In view of the above, the 3rd respondent is directed to periodically convene meetings involving the Tea growers, Estate owners and Bought leaf Manufacturers and to make appropriate recommendations arising out of such meetings to the Central Government. The Said Exercise shall be completed within a period of six (6) months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

6. The Writ Petition stands disposed of with the aforesaid direction. There shall be no order as to costs.

25.11.2025

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-Speaking Order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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