

WP(MD)Nos.1167 to 1176 of 2026

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

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Dated : 05.02.2026

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

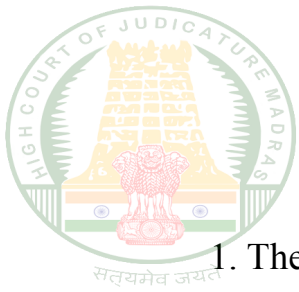
WP(MD)Nos.1167 to 1176 of 2026

and

**WMP(MD)Nos.891, 906, 899, 900, 898, 901, 907, 897,
918 and 904 of 2026**

V.Murugan	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1167 of 2026
R.Nadhiya	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1168 of 2026
M.Dhanushpandi	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1169 of 2026
S.Muthumani	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1170 of 2026
M.Mohamed Idhris Raja	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1171 of 2026
R.Abdul Harish	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1172 of 2026
K.Ajith	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1173 of 2026
S.Jeyabalan	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1174 of 2026
K.Tamil Selvan	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1175 of 2026
M.Arjun	... Petitioner in W.P.(MD)No.1176 of 2026

versus



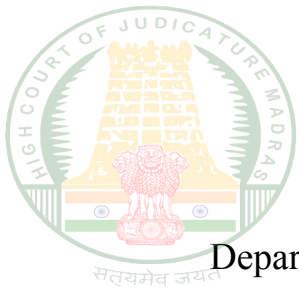
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1. The Agriculture Production Commissioner/
Secretary to Government,
Department of Agriculture,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.
2. The Director,
Department of Agriculture,
Ezhilagam, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600 005.
3. The Director,
Department of Horticulture and
Hill Plantation Crops,
Ezhilagam, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600 005.
4. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
O/o. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
Madurai District,
Madurai – 625 002.
5. The Deputy Director,
O/o. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
Dindigul District,
Dindigul.

... Respondents in
all W.Ps.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1167/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)]



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Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(3) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No. 4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1168/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(12) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1169/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the

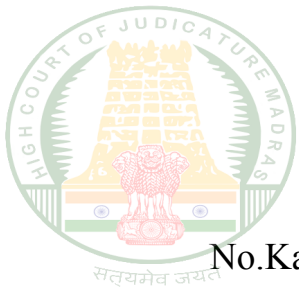


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consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(9) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No. 4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1170/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(7) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No. 4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1171/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order



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No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(2) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No. 4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1172/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(13) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1173/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the

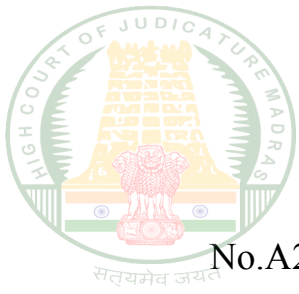


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Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(15) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1174/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(10) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1175/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order



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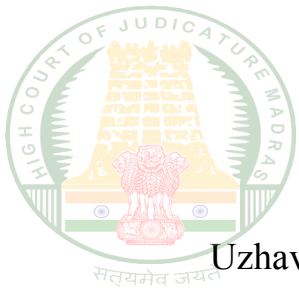
No.A2/8307/2025(8) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No. 4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

Prayer in W.P.(MD)No.1175/2026: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.252, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare (VeNi 4(2)] Department, dated 30.09.2025 and the consequential impugned order in G.O.(Ms.)No.288, Agriculture – Farmers Welfare [VeNi4(2)] Department, dated 28.11.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.1, the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.KaPaNi1/14594/2025-7 dated 17.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.3 and the consequential impugned order in Se.Mu.Order No.A2/8307/2025(11) dated 18.12.2025 on the file of the Respondent No.4 and quash the same as illegal insofar as the petitioner is concerned.

For Petitioner in all W.Ps.	: Mr.T.Lajapathy Roy, Senior Counsel for M/s.Roy and Roy Associates
For Respondents in all W.Ps.	: Mr.Ajmalkhan, Additional Advocate General assisted by Mr.G.V.Vairam Santhosh, Additional Government Pleader

COMMON ORDER

The petitioners are working as Assistant Horticultural Officers. The Government, vide G.O.(Ms) No.252, Agriculture-Farmer Welfare (Ve.Ni.4(2)) Department, dated 30.09.2025 introduced a scheme called



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Uzhavar Aluvalar Thodabu Thittam. For implementation of the said scheme, the petitioners have been transferred and posted in Agriculture Department, by order dated 17.12.2025 and subsequently, relieved from service, by order dated 18.12.2025. Aggrieved over the same, the petitioners have filed these writ petitions.

2. This Court, while entertaining a similar writ petition in W.P. (MD)No.1154 of 2026 on 21.01.2026, granted an order of interim stay as under:

“2. The learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that several officers have been transferred from one District to another District. However, some of the officers, who have been transferred, have been retained in the same District, by recalling their transfer orders. However, the petitioner has been transferred from Sivagangai District to Ramanathapuram District.

3. Since the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the petitioner has pointed out that some of the officers, who have been transferred, have been retained in the same District, by recalling their transfer orders, this Court is inclined to grant interim stay.



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4. Accordingly, there shall be an order of interim stay till 27.01.2026. Post the matter on 27.01.2026 immediately after admission.”

This Court has also directed the respondents to file a report as to the reasons for recalling the transfer orders with regard to other officers and retaining them in the same District.

3. In these writ petitions, this Court has not granted any interim order, in view of the request of the learned Additional Government Pleader for appearance of the learned Additional Advocate General and for filing counter affidavit. Therefore, all these writ petitions are posted today.

4. Today, the learned Additional Advocate General submits that the respondents seek some more time for filing their counter affidavit. The learned Additional Advocate General also pointed out that similar writ petitions have been filed before the Principal Seat, wherein, counter affidavits have been filed and arguments have already been advanced. Now, the cases are posted for further hearing on 18.02.2026.



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5. Since the respondents have not filed their counter affidavits and the Department has also relied on the similar writ petitions pending before the Principal Seat, this Court is inclined to grant relief, which has already been granted to similarly placed person in W.P.(MD)No.1154 of 2026, to these petitioners also.

6. Accordingly, there shall be an order of interim stay till 20.02.2026. It is made clear that interim stay is restricted only to transfer orders.

7. Post the matters on 20.02.2026 in the same position.

05.02.2026

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To

1. The Agriculture Production Commissioner/
Secretary to Government,
Department of Agriculture,
Secretariat, Fort St. George,
Chennai – 600 009.

10/12



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2. The Director,
Department of Agriculture,
Ezhilagam, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600 005.
3. The Director,
Department of Horticulture and
Hill Plantation Crops,
Ezhilagam, Chepauk,
Chennai – 600 005.
4. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
O/o. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
Madurai District,
Madurai – 625 002.
5. The Deputy Director,
O/o. The Deputy Director of Horticulture,
Dindigul District,
Dindigul.



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B.PUGALENDHI, J.

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